

## **Montana House Conservation Hotlist Week 2: January 11, 2021**

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### **Please Support:**

**HB 17, Allow alternative energy system tax credit to be refunded**, Rep. Hamilton (D-Bozeman) Hearing, House Taxation, Hearing on 1/07/21, Support. HB17 amends the Alternative Energy System Tax Credit to make the tax credits refundable rather than have them carry forward year-to-year. These changes will benefit low income individuals in Montana by changing the existing language to ensure that taxpayers who invest in alternative energy and rely on these tax credits receive more immediate monetary benefits if the refund exceeds the individual's tax liability. *Contact Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center, 775-997-8059 or [cploeger@meic.org](mailto:cploeger@meic.org)*

**HB 99, Revise laws related to utility preapproval**, Rep. Hayman (D-Bozeman), House Energy, Hearing on 1/13/21, Support. Endorsed by the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee, this bill would eliminate utility pre-approval. Unlike most utilities, NorthWestern can ask the Montana Public Service Commission to approve the purchase of an electricity generating resource (such as did with the hydroelectric system or gas plants) and pass all of the costs and risks on to customers instead of allowing its shareholders to bear the initial risk. This creates a disincentive for the utility to do its due diligence on whether a generating resource is a sound investment. Instead, the utility can shift the burden to the PSC who has a short review timeframe and insufficient resources leaving customers to bear the risk of a potentially uneconomic investment. *Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, at 461-9546 or [ahedges@meic.org](mailto:ahedges@meic.org)*

*The Weekly Hotlist is published as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens by the Conservation Working Group, comprised of the organizations listed below. Contact Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters at 406-855-7821*

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