

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

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### **Please Support:**

**SB 4, Extend the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, Senator Small (R-Busby) Senate Judiciary, Hearing on 1/12/21, Support.** SB 4 would extend the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force to 2023. This multi-stakeholder task force identifies ways to improve communication, cooperation, and accountability between federal, state, local, tribal law enforcement and community agencies while addressing jurisdictional barriers. We cannot solve Montana's conservation issues until the disproportionate threat to indigenous peoples' health and safety is urgently addressed.

**SB 59, Revise laws related to integrated least-cost resource planning, Senator McNally (D-Billings) Senate Energy, Hearing on 1/14/21, Support.** SB 59 would allow utilities to submit Resource Procurement Plans every two or three years instead of the current legal requirement to do so every three years. This bill helps Montana Dakota Utilities coordinate its resource planning with the requirements of other states. *Contact Conor Ploeger, MEIC, at 443-2520 or [cploeger@meic.org](mailto:cploeger@meic.org).*

### **Please Oppose:**

**SB 85, Generally revise taxation of renewable energy, Senator Ankney (R-Colstrip) Senate Taxation, Hearing on 1/14/21, Oppose.** SB 85 would raise taxes on wind energy generation. The bill would make it less economic for renewable energy developers to build projects in Montana. *Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, at 461-9546 or [ahedges@meic.org](mailto:ahedges@meic.org) or Conor Ploeger at 443-2520 or [cploeger@meic.org](mailto:cploeger@meic.org)*

**SB 53, Revise permitting laws for rock products minin, Senator Welborn (R-Dillon) Senate Natural Resources, Executive Action, Oppose.** This bill would exempt the permitting of decorative rock quarries from having to conduct an environmental review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Currently, rock quarries are permitted under the Hardrock Mining Reclamation Act, and are often evaluated under a "checklist" environmental assessment to assure that the environmental consequences of the proposal are fully considered. *Contact Derf Johnson, MEIC, at 406-443-2520 or [djohnson@meic.org](mailto:djohnson@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*

*\* Clark Fork Coalition \* Environment Montana \* Montana Audubon \* Montana Conservation Voters \* Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) \* Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) \* Montana Wilderness Association \* Montana Wildlife Federation \* Northern Plains Resource Council \* Smart Growth Coalition \**