

Montana Senate Conservation Hotlist Week 3: January 18, 2021

Please Support:

SB 4, Extend the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, Senator Small (R-Busby) Senate Judiciary, Second Reading, 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, Executive Action, 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.*

Please Oppose:

SB 85, Generally revise taxation of renewable energy, Senator Ankney (R-Colstrip) Senate Taxation, Executive Action, 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 or Conor Ploeger at 443-2520 or cploeger@meic.org*

SB 53, Revise permitting laws for rock products minin, Senator Welborn (R-Dillon) Senate Natural Resources, Second Reading, 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*

SB 98, Revising laws related to grizzly bear take in defense of persons and livestock, Senator Gillespie (R-Ethridge) Senate Agriculture, Hearing on 1/21/21, Oppose. This bill would redefine when a grizzly bear can be killed to include threatening livestock. The language would replace language approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assure adequate mechanisms to maintain grizzly bears post delisting from the endangered species list, and ensure that grizzlies are never delisted in Montana. *Contact Nick Gevock, MWF, at 406-533-9432 or ngevock@mtwf.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 **