

Montana Senate Conservation Hotlist Week 2: January 9, 2023

Please Support:

SB 109- Revise laws related to redistricting the PSC, Sen. Keith Reiger (R-Kalispell) In First House Committee-Nontabled, Support. SB 109 would revise Public Service Commission (PSC) districts and require the legislature to revisit the PSC districts after each census. Legislative districts are set by the redistricting commission, PSC districts are set by the legislature. A court found the current PSC districts, which had not been updated since 2003, were lopsided and thereby unconstitutional for failing to provide people with adequate representation. SB 109 would revise the existing districts update them every 10 years after the census. For more information contact Ian Lund, MEIC, 406-333-1858 or ilund@meic.org.

SB 32- Revising pipeline safety regulation penalties, Sen. Mike Cuffe (R- Eureka) In First House Committee-Nontabled, Support. SB 32 would increase the penalties that the Montana Public Service Commission is able to assess for pipeline safety violations. The increase is necessary to assure that state law complies with federal standards and that Montana maintains primacy over the program. For more info, contact Derf Johnson, MEIC, 406-581-4634 or djohnson@meic.org.

Please Oppose:

SB 39- Revise permitting for incinerators, Sen. Dan Bartel (R-Lewistown) In First House Committee-Nontabled, Oppose. SB 39 would weaken or eliminate the state's air quality standards for some incinerators. The law, passed in 1993 requires additional analysis to ensure the risk posed by waste burning incinerator presents a negligible risk to public health. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is asking the legislature to reduce the requirements on incinerators and to entirely exempt human and pet crematoriums from conducting any risk analysis. These crematoriums can have high emission of mercury and other harmful substances. For more information contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406-461-9546 or ahedges@meic.org.

SB 97- Implement renewable portfolio standard production tax property tax relief, Sen. Keith Reiger (R-Kalispell) In First House Committee-Nontabled, Oppose. SB 97 increases taxes on large-scale renewable energy producers by 500 fold. This bill is an egregious attack on renewable energy development like solar, wind, and batteries and adds unnecessary layers of bureaucracy with an eye on taxing the industry out of existence. Contact: Makenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association, 406-850-4491 or makenna@MontanaRenewables.org.

The Weekly Hotlist is published as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens by the Conservation Working Group, composed of the organizations listed below. Contact Molly Bell, Montana Conservation Voters at 406-698-9440

Clark Fork Coalition * Montana Audubon * Montana Conservation Voters * Montana Environmental Information Center * Montana Renewable Energy Association * Montana Wildlife Federation* Northern Plains Resource Council
Wild Montana