

Montana House Conservation Hotlist: Week of April 21, 2025

	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HJ 44	✓	
HJ 61	✓	
HJ 62	✓	
SJ 19	✓	
SJ 21	✓	
HJ 54		X

PLEASE SUPPORT:

HJ 44—Interim study of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality, Rep. Zack Wirth (R-Sieben), Second Reading, 4/22, Support. HJ 44 would create an interim committee to study Montana's water quality in relation to endocrine-disrupting chemicals that can mimic, block, or alter hormones in biological systems. Montanans need to know the extent of the problem and identify potential corrective actions. Contact: Ben Catton, MEIC, 307-920-1843, bcatton@meic.org.

HJ 61—Interim study on the property insurance market in Montana, Rep. Joshua Seckinger (D-Bozeman), Hearing, House Business and Labor, 4/22, Support. HJ 61 would conduct an interim study on the causes behind rapidly rising insurance premiums in Montana for homeowners and other property owners. Increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires across the state is widely believed to be one of the main contributing factors but it will be crucial to study

the issue comprehensively to better understand the array of issues leading to insurance costs that are exacerbating increasing housing costs for many Montanans. Contact: Laura Collins, MEIC, 406-443-2520, lcollins@meic.org.

HJ 62—Study resolution on wildfire safety, Rep. Becky Edwards (D-Bozeman), Passed House Natural Resources, Support. HJ 62 requests an interim study of the mitigation and prevention of wildfires across Montana. HJ 62 aims to increase community resilience and reduce community-scale risk in the form of widespread use of wildfire-resistant building materials, defensible space, and comprehensive community planning that includes adequate mitigation against exacerbating the hazards and risks of wildfires that enter the urban landscape. Contact: Laura Collins, MEIC, 406-443-2520, lcollins@meic.org.

SJ 19—Joint resolution to study public transportation, Sen. Andrea Olsen (D-Missoula), Passed House Transportation, Support. SJ 19 would task a legislative interim committee to study ways to improve public transit services in Montana, including exploring the establishment of a passenger transportation commission. Contact: Laura Collins, MEIC, 406-443-2520, lcollins@meic.org.

SJ 21—Interim study on interstate power grid development, Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R-Billings), Passed House Energy, Support. SJ 21 would establish an interim study to evaluate potential benefits, legal considerations, and implementation strategies for entering into an interstate transmission development compact for streamlining interstate electric transmission development for the benefit of Montana's energy system reliability and affordability. Contact: Nick Fitzmaurice, MEIC, 406-534-9307, nfitzmaurice@meic.org, or Makenna Sellers, MREA, 406-850-4491, makenna@montanarenewables.org.

PLEASE OPPOSE:

HJ 54—Interim study on waste-to-energy, Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R-Billings), Passed House Energy, Oppose. Waste incineration is harmful to human health and the environment, releasing toxic pollutants into the air, water, and soil. Relying on waste for energy also creates a perverse incentive structure to generate more waste and limit recycling and reuse. Contact: Nick Fitzmaurice, MEIC, 406-534-9307, nfitzmaurice@meic.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.

For questions, please contact Kearstyn Cook with MCV at 406-426-2422 or Natalie Wright with MCV at 406-426-2645.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers * Montana Audubon * Montana Conservation Voters * Montana Environmental Information Center * Montana Renewable Energy Association * MontPIRG * Northern Plains Resource Council * Wild Montana