

Montana Senate Conservation Hotlist: Week of April 21, 2025

	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HB 372	✓	
HB 760	✓	
HJ 15	✓	
HJ 46	✓	
HB 911		X
HJ 12		X
HJ 35		X

PLEASE SUPPORT:

HB 372—Revise license fees used for funding of upland game bird enhancement program (UGBEP), Rep. Tom France (D-Missoula), Awaiting Second Reading, Support. HB 372 would increase funds allocated to the UGBEP, primarily through increasing non-resident game bird and combination license fees. The UGBEP funds habitat enhancement projects for wildlife, and promotes collaboration between landowners and FWP. Contact: Peter Dudley, MT Audubon, 406-443-3949, peter@mtaudubon.org.

HB 760—Establish solar consumer protection laws, Rep. George Nikolakakos (R-Great Falls), Third Reading, 4/22, Support. HB 760 keeps bad actors out of Montana related to solar sales. It codifies consumers' right to cancel a door-to-door solar contract within three business days of signing. Contact: Makenna Sellers, MREA, 406-850-4491, makenna@montanarenewables.org.

HJ 15—Resolution supporting increased transmission capacity in Montana, Rep. Greg Kmetz (R-Miles City), Third Reading, 4/22, Support. HJ 15 opens the

dialogue with utility stakeholders and government officials on Montana's critical need to expand electric transmission capacity, emphasizing that affordable, reliable electricity depends on robust transmission infrastructure. Contact: Nick Fitzmaurice, MEIC, 406-534-9307, nfitzmaurice@meic.org, Makenna Sellers, MREA, 406-850-4491, makenna@montanarenewables.org.

HJ 46—Study resolution on data centers, Rep. Tom Millett (R-Marion), Awaiting Hearing, Senate Energy, Support. HJ 46 establishes an interim study to investigate the potentially adverse impacts of data center development in Montana on electric grid reliability and affordability, existing ratepayers, water resources, and more. Contact: Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406-461-9546, ahedges@meic.org.

PLEASE OPPOSE:

HB 911—Revise the meaning of the term "public utility," Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R-Anaconda), Awaiting E.A., Senate Energy, Oppose. Terrible deregulation bill from NorthWestern. Likely dead, but keep on the lookout. Contact: Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406-461-9546, ahedges@meic.org.

HJ 12—Resolution regarding electric vehicles, Rep. Randyn Gregg (R-White Sulphur Springs), Awaiting E.A., Senate Energy, Oppose. HJ 12 would thank the U.S. President for taking actions to eliminate EPA vehicle tailpipe pollution standards that are mischaracterized as an "Electric Vehicle mandate," further mischaracterizing the current state, performance, and suitability of EV technology in Montana. The standards were projected to result in nearly \$100 billion in annual net benefits to society. Contact: Nick Fitzmaurice, MEIC, 406-534-9307, nfitzmaurice@meic.org.

HJ 35—Joint resolution urging changes to federal wildfire policy, Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R-Belgrade), Third Reading, 4/22, Oppose. HJ 35 will urge the Federal Government to adopt regressive and extremely dangerous wildfire suppression strategies which were abandoned over half a century ago when a more appropriate approach to wildfire management became better understood. HJ 35 disregards a well established body of scientific evidence as well as the lives and safety of wildland fire fighters. Contact: Laura Collins, MEIC, 406-443-2520, lcollins@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