

**Montana Conservation Community  
Legislative Hotlist, Senate  
Week 4: January 26, 2009**

**Please Support:**

**SB 22, Create water policy committee**, Sen. Murphy (R-Cardwell). This bill makes the water policy interim committee, created in 2007, permanent. Water policy issues in Montana are complex, especially in the face of increasing demand for our fresh water resources. The interim committee creates a bi-partisan environment to study and discuss the issues surrounding water use and appropriation in the state. Finance and Claims, 01/29/2009, 5pm, Rm 317A. Contact Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited, 406.544.9265, [mark@montanatu.org](mailto:mark@montanatu.org).

**SB 49, Energy efficiency standards for construction of state buildings**, Sen. Wanzenried (D-Missoula). This bill would require minimum energy efficiency standard for new state buildings and state buildings undergoing major renovations. The requirement would be that these buildings exceed the energy efficiency code by 20%. State Administration, 01/23/2009, 3pm, Rm 335, pending committee vote. Contact Matt Leow, Northern Plains Resource Council, 406.396.1766, [matt@northernplains.org](mailto:matt@northernplains.org).

**SB 180, Vehicle emission standards**, Sen. Erickson (D-Missoula). This bill directs the Board of Environmental Review to adopt California's clean car standard which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles. Montana would join 13 other states who have already adopted the California standard and numerous other states poised to do so. These states represent over half the vehicle market. Business and Labor, 01/30/2009, 3pm, Rm 422. Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406.461.9546, [ahedges@meic.org](mailto:ahedges@meic.org).

**SB 166, Allow low-interest coal tax trust fund loans to expand rail passenger service**, Sen. Lewis (R- Helena). The bill amends authorized investments from the coal tax trust fund to be extended to include providing loans to local governments for the development and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to expand passenger rail service in Montana. The bill does not touch the principal of the coal trust fund. Local Government, 01/23/2009, 3pm, Rm 405, pending committee vote. Contact Sheena Rice, MontPIRG, 406.490.9777, [sheenarice@gmail.com](mailto:sheenarice@gmail.com).

*This hotlist is compiled by Montana Conservation Voters (contact Sarah Cobler, 581.2284 or [sarah@mtvoters.org](mailto:sarah@mtvoters.org)) as an educational service to lawmakers and citizens, weekly tracking key conservation-related legislative actions.*

Alternative Energy Resource Organization \* Clark Fork Coalition \* Montana Audubon \*  
Montana Conservation Voters \* Montana Environmental Information Center \* MontPIRG\*  
Montana Sierra Club\* Montana Smart Growth Coalition \* Montana Trout Unlimited \*  
National Center for Appropriate Technology \* Natural Resource Defense Council \*  
Northern Plains Resource Council

**Please Oppose:**

**SB 257, Revise definition of renewable energy resource**, Sen. Keane (D-Butte). The "Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act" (also known as renewable energy standard, passed 2005) requires utilities to acquire 15% of their energy from renewable sources by the year 2015. It is successfully spurring the growth of the clean, renewable wind industry. This bill would undermine the act by allowing the owners of hydroelectric dams to count routine upgrades and maintenance toward the requirements of the renewable energy standard, decreasing the incentive to develop new renewable sources. Energy and Telecommunications, 01/27/2009, 3pm, Rm 317A. Contact Matt Leow, Northern Plains, 406.393.1766, [matt@northernplains.org](mailto:matt@northernplains.org) or Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406.461.9546, [ahedges@meic.org](mailto:ahedges@meic.org)

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