

**Montana Conservation Community**  
**Legislative Hotlist, House of Representatives**  
Week 15: Apr. 14 – Apr. 18, 2009

**Please oppose:**

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**SB 257, Revise definition of renewable energy resource**, Sen. Keane (D-Butte). The Renewable Energy Standard (Sen. Tester, SB 415, 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 undermines the act by allowing the owners of large hydroelectric dams to retroactively count routine upgrades toward the requirements of the renewable energy standard, decreasing statewide incentives to develop new renewable sources. Pending 2nd reading. Contact Matt Leow, Northern Plains, 393.1766, matt@northernplains.org, or Anne Hedges, MEIC, 461.9546, or ahedges@meic.org.

**SB 505, Temporary permit for coal bed methane water**, Sen. Bales (R-Otter). This bill allows coal bed methane companies to take groundwater from aquifers and call it surface water. The bill gives the coal bed methane company pipes legal status as the source of the water, and that means senior water rights holders cannot protest the “temporary” permits. The only reason the water rights are temporary is they only last until all the water has been pumped from the aquifer. At that point, the ranchers are on their own for water, and their senior water rights have been stolen. Natural Resources, pending committee vote. Contact Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council, 223.9923, or julia@northernplains.org.

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

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