

Montana Conservation Community
Legislative Hotlist, Senate
Week 14: Apr. 6 – Apr. 11, 2009

Please Support:

HB, 52, Fund hydrogeologic study, Rep. McNutt (R-Sidney). This bill funds up to seven hydrogeologic studies in high growth counties such as Ravalli and Gallatin. These studies would provide much needed information on surface and groundwater interactions, and better facilitate local and state government on how, where and when water should be used. Pending 2nd reading. Contact Brianna Randall, Clark Fork Coalition, 370.5289.

HB 361, Create energy improvement districts, Rep. Wiseman (D-Bozeman). This bill authorizes cities and counties to establish Energy Improvement Districts in order to make loans to property owners for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. It creates jobs, reduces energy bills, and diminishes the environmental impact of energy consumption. Local Government, 04/06/2009, 3pm, Rm 405. Contact Linda Gryczan, AERO, 431.3635.

HB 420, Allow local government to adopt energy conservation building codes, Rep. Reinhart (D-Missoula). The bill allows local governments to establish voluntary incentive-based energy conservation standards for new green construction. It increases the energy efficiency of housing for long-term residents and businesses, while supporting local efforts for energy efficiency and economic independence. Pending 3rd reading. Contact Tyler Evilsizer, S.A.V.E., 202.1723.

HB 645, Appropriate federal stimulus money, Rep. Sesso (D-Butte). This bill has been amended to designate \$35 million for energy efficiency improvements in K-12 school facilities. This is one of the best ways that we can utilize stimulus money to create jobs and provide ongoing financial benefits in the form of reduced energy bills for schools. Finance and Claims, pending committee vote. Contact Matt Leow, Northern Plains Resource Council, 396.1766, or matt@northernplains.org.

Please Oppose:

HB 575, Redefine polluted coal bed methane water as "production water," Rep. McChesney (D-Miles City). This bill would threaten senior water rights holders. It allows permits to evade the Water Use Act by declaring that CBM water originates in the pipeline system and is appropriated from there. This overturns 140 years of water law, and endangers rights of farmers and ranchers. Natural Resources, 04/06/2009, 3pm, Rm 422. Julia Page, Northern Plains, 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

Alternative Energy Resource Organization * Clark Fork Coalition * Climate Solutions* 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