

The Senate



SENATOR  
PATRICIA L. BIRKHOLZ  
Chair

**Committee on Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs**

P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
(517) 373-3447  
Fax: (517) 373-5849

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs was held on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at 1:12 p.m. in the Farnum Building, Room 110.

Committee members present: Birkholz (C), Van Woerkom (Maj. VC), Basham (Min VC), Gleason.  
Committee members excused: Patterson

Senator Birkholz gave opening remarks regarding the order of business:

- HB4201 Rep. Lindberg – Natural resources; other; easements across state owned land; revise policy for granting.
- SR168 Sen. Birkholz – A resolution to urge the Great Lakes states and Ontario and the federal governments of the United States and Canada to ban permanently all directional drilling for oil and gas beneath the Great Lakes.
- SR169 Sen. Pappageorge – A resolution to urge the inclusion of a ban on new oil and gas drilling beneath the Great Lakes in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and to call for a study and assessment of the impact and risk from existing drilling operations on the Great Lakes.
- SCR48 Sen. Richardville – A concurrent resolution to urge the inclusion of a ban on new oil and gas drilling beneath the Great Lakes in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and to call for a study and assessment of the impact and risk from existing drilling operations on the Great Lakes.
- SJRZ Sen. Kahn – Natural resources; gas and oil; prohibition against drilling in the waters of the state or beneath the bottomlands of the Great Lakes; provide for.

Senator Van Woerkom motioned, and Senator Basham seconded that the committee adopt the minutes of May 26, 2010.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Birkholz recessed at the call of the Chair at 1:15 p.m.

Senator Birkholz reconvened the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs meeting at 2:04 p.m. in the Capitol Building Room 405.

Craig Brunet, Legislative Aide to Representative Lindberg, gave brief statements explaining HB4201 on behalf of Representative Lindberg sponsor of the bill who was not able to be present due to House Session. Mr. Brunet then answered questions from committee members.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of HB4201 but did not wish to speak:  
Maggie Cox representing Michigan Forest Products Council

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Tom Wellman and David Spalding representing the Department of Natural Resources and Environment

James Clift representing the Michigan Environmental Council gave verbal testimony opposed to HB4201. Mr. Clift then answered questions from committee members.

Rich Bowman representing the Nature Conservancy of Michigan gave verbal testimony stating concerns in the language of HB4201. Mr. Bowman then answered questions from committee members.

Senator Van Woerkhom motioned, and Senator Basham seconded that the committee report with recommendation HB4201.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Van Woerkhom motioned, and Senator Basham seconded that the committee give HB4201 immediate effect.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Birkholz called upon Bob Wilson, Senate Majority Policy Advisor to explain SR168 and the substitute S-1.

Mike Haines representing the Michigan Oil and Gas Association gave verbal testimony neutral to SR168, SR169, SR48, and SJRZ. Mr. Haines then answered questions from committee members

Dave Biswas, Legislative Aide to Senator Kahn, gave brief statements explaining SJRZ on behalf of Senator Kahn sponsor of the legislation who was not able to be present. Mr. Biswas then answered questions from committee members.

James Clift representing the Michigan Environmental Council gave verbal testimony in support of SR168, SR169, SR48, and SJRZ. Mr. Clift then answered questions from committee members.

Harold Fitch representing the Department of Natural Resources and Environment submitted a testimony card not taking a position on the legislation properly before the committee but making himself available to answer any questions if necessary.

Kristen Brown, Legislative Aide to Senator Pappageorge, submitted a testimony card in support of SR169 on behalf of Senator Pappageorge sponsor of the legislation and was not able to be present. Ms. Brown did not wish to speak.

Susan Harley representing Clean Water Action gave verbal testimony in support of SR168, SR169, SR48, and SJRZ. Ms. Harley then answered questions from committee members.

Senator Birkholz gave verbal comments explaining her commitment to work with the bill sponsors on language of concern and support for SR168, SR169, SR48, and SJRZ.

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Senator Birkholz called upon Bob Wilson, Senate Majority Policy Advisor to explain SR168, SR169, SR48, and SJRZ.

Senator Birkholz moved, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee adopt the substitute S-1 to SR 168.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Birkholz motioned, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee report SR168 S-1 with favorable recommendation.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Basham motioned, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee report SR169 with favorable recommendation.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Basham motioned, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee report SCR48 with favorable recommendation.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Birkholz moved, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee adopt the substitute S-2 to SJRZ.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Birkholz motioned, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee report SJRZ S-2 with favorable recommendation.

Yeas: Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham

Nays: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Basham motioned, and Senator Van Woerkom seconded, that the committee excuse Senator Patterson.

The motion prevailed by majority voice.

Senator Van Woerkom motioned, and Senator Basham seconded, that the committee adjourn.

The motion prevailed by majority voice.

Senator Birkholz adjourned the meeting without objection at 2:50 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Committee Clerk

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Chairperson

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Date approved by the Committee