



MEMBERS:

SEN. PHIL PAVLOV, VICE CHAIR
SEN. DAVID ROBERTSON
SEN. JIM STAMAS
SEN. REBEKAH WARREN, MINORITY VICE CHAIR

THE SENATE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SENATOR TOM CASPERSON
CHAIR

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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 25, 2015

A meeting of the Senate Natural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 12:30 p.m., in room 210 of the Farnum Building.

The agenda summary is as follows:

- 1) SB 217 — testimony only
 - 2) SR 27 — reported with recommendation
 - 3) SR 28 — reported with recommendation
 - 4) A discussion regarding the effects of NREPA Part 632 on Michigan mining, and the impact on economic development in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan.
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Senator Casperson called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Attendance was recorded as follows:

Present: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Robertson, Stamas, Warren

Absent: None

Excused: None

Chair Casperson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator Robertson made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting. Being no objection, the motion prevailed.

The Chair announced Senate Bill 217 was the next item on the agenda. Senator Booher and Kara Butters, his legislative aide, gave members a brief overview of the bill.

The following individuals testified before members regarding their position on SB 217:

- Matt Blakely & Rich Harlow, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development—no position taken

The following individuals submitted testimony cards to indicate their position on SB 217 but did not testify:

- Rebecca Park & Andrew Vermeesch, Michigan Farm Bureau—Support
- Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs –Support in concept
- Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass—Support

- Nichole Nystrom, Highland Copper Company—Support
- Judy Augenstein, Michigan Association of Timbermen—Support
- Judy Augenstein, Great Lakes Timber Professionals—Support

The Chair announced Senate Resolutions 27 and 28 were the next items on the agenda, and gave members a brief overview of their content.

A discussion regarding the effects of NREPA Part 632 on Michigan mining, and the impact on economic development in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan:

- Troy Henderson, Historian, Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee (videoconference)
- Matt Johnson and Kristen Mariuzza, Lundin, Eagle Mine
- Carlos Bertoni and Dave Anderson, Highland Copper Company

Senator Robertson made a motion to report Senate Resolution 27 with recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

Yeas: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Robertson, Stamas

Nays: Senator Warren

Pass: none

The motion prevailed.

Senator Stamas made a motion to report Senate Resolution 28 with recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

Yeas: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Robertson, Stamas

Nays: Senator Warren

Pass: none

The motion prevailed.

Being no further business, Chair Casperson adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m., without objection.

Date Adopted by Committee: April 15, 2015

An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.