

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nesbitt, Chair, called the Committee to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nesbitt, Shirkey, Farrington, Franz, Jacobsen, Outman, Pettalia, Price, Schmidt, Zorn, Graves, Lauwers, Howrylak, Hobbs, Nathan, LaVoy, Lane, Brunner, Yanez, Lamonte, Phelps.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Stallworth.

Representative Jacobsen made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2014. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Franz made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 5205 (Nesbitt) Energy; alternative sources; advanced waste energy recovery; allow.

Representative Shirkey assumed the Chair, the time being 8:40 a.m.

Representative Nesbitt reviewed the provisions of HB 5205 with the Committee.

Representative Nesbitt returned to the Chair, the time being 8:42 a.m.

Representative Farrington made a motion to adopt HB 5205 (H-1).

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nesbitt, Shirkey, Farrington, Franz, Jacobsen, Pettalia, Price, Zorn, Graves, Lauwers, Lane, Brunner, Yanez, Lamonte, Phelps. (15/0/0)

Nays: None. (0/22)

Pass: None. (0/22)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

The following individuals spoke to the Committee regarding HB 5205:

Craig Coulson, representing the American Chemistry Council, in support
Tom Horton, representing Waste Management, in support
Scott Whitney and Ted Hansen, representing Greenwood Energy, in support (with revisions)

James Clift, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, in opposition
Brian Keeley of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in opposition

Cards for HB 5205 were submitted by:

Bill Lievens, representing the Michigan Chemistry Council, in support
Mike Cicchetti, representing Covanta, in support
David Bertram, representing Michigan State University, in support
Gary Melow, representing Michigan Biomass, neutral on the bill
Mike Byrne, representing the Michigan Public Service Commission
(MPSC)/Administration, in opposition as introduced
Alexis Blizman, representing the Ecology Center, in opposition
Rory Neuner, representing Michigan Air and the Michigan Health Coalition, in
opposition
Richard Marmon, representing the Grand Rapids Environmental Coalition, in
opposition
Bill Wortz, representing DOW, in support
Wibke Heymach, representing MOMS Clean Air Force, in opposition
Erica Bloom, representing the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, in opposition

The Chair laid the following bills before the Committee.

HB 5555 (Nesbitt)	Public utilities; natural gas utilities; infrastructure expansion investment costs for certain underserved or unserved areas; allow natural gas utilities to recover.
HB 5556 (Townsend)	Natural resources; gas and oil; administrative fines for certain pipeline violations; modify.
HB 5557 (Nesbitt)	Public utilities; public service commission; assessment of certain fines or penalties; prohibit.

Jim Byrum, representing the Michigan Agri-Business Association, submitted a card in support of HB 5555 and provided a presentation to the Committee which reviewed the following topics: Crop yield; infrastructure (Michigan licensed grain storage capacity); infrastructure needs (advancing the agricultural sector); natural gas; propane; and the future (regarding agricultural growth and rural development).

Wayne Kohley and David Long, representing the Michigan Propane Gas Association, spoke in opposition to HB 5555.

Rick Coy, representing the Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity, submitted a card for HB 5555 (needs amendments).

James Clift, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, submitted a card indicating opposition to HB 5555.

Cards for HB 5555-HB 5557 were submitted by:

Beth Wallace, representing Pipeline Safety Trust, in support

James Ault, representing the Michigan Electric and Gas Association, in support

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nesbitt declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 10:31 a.m.

Representative Aric Nesbitt, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538