

2015 MEIC Legislative Voting Record

MEIC's Legislative Voting Record has been produced after every session of the Montana Legislature since 1974.

MEIC generally chooses second reading votes unless a third reading vote or a vote on an amendment more accurately reflects legislators' positions on an issue. We encourage you to check on how your legislators voted and to talk to them about those votes. Don't forget to thank them when they voted correctly. But please remember that in order to fully evaluate a legislator, you must also consider committee performance, influence on the floor debates, and responsiveness to constituents.

The pluses and minuses in the Voting Record do not represent "yes" or "no" votes; they indicate whether the vote supported or opposed MEIC's position.

Bill Descriptions

A = SB 114 (Sen. Debby Barrett, *R-Dillon*).

Would have allowed electricity generated at all existing and new hydropower facilities, regardless of size, to be considered as renewable energy under the Renewable Energy Standard. *See page 6.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 34 to 16.*
- *House: 2nd reading, passed 57 to 43.*

Status: *Vetoed by the Governor.*

B = HJ 11 (Rep. Art Mike Lang, *R-Malta*).

Resolution supporting the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. *See page 10.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 35 to 14.*
- *House: 3rd reading, passed 71 to 28.*

Status: *Resolution adopted.*

C = SB 182 (Sen. Mike Phillips, *D-Bozeman*).

Would have allowed for neighborhood net-metering, in which multiple homes could be served by a single, net-metered system. *See page 10.*

MEIC Position: *Support.*

Vote used:

- *Senate: Sen. Phillips' motion to take the bill from committee, failed 19 to 31.*

Status: *Tabled in the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.*

D = SB 172 (Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy, *D-Crow Agency*).

Would have required oil and gas operators to conduct baseline water testing of adjacent water sources before "fracking." *See page 16.*

MEIC Position: *Support.*

Vote used:

- *Senate: Sen. Stewart-Peregoy's motion to take the bill from committee, failed 22 to 28.*

Status: *Tabled in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.*

E = SB 387 (Sen. Cary Smith, *R-Billings*).

Reduces by 95% the maximum fine that DEQ is able to assess for violations of water quality standards. *See page 9.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 30 to 16.*

Status: *Law.*

F = SB 374 (Sen. Christine Kaufmann, *D-Helena*).

Would have repealed the oil and gas production tax "holiday" and provided funding for communities impacted by oil and gas development.

MEIC Position: *Support.*

Vote used:

- *Senate: Sen. Kaufmann's motion to take the bill from committee, failed 21 to 28.*

Status: *Tabled in the Senate Taxation Committee.*

G = SB 314 (Sen. Roger Webb, *R-Billings*).

Would have authorized the State to enter into an interstate pipeline compact with other states and provinces of Canada for construction of interstate oil and gas pipelines. *See page 7.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 28 to 22.*

Status: *Tabled in the House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee.*

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H = HB 244 (Rep. Jeff Essmann, *R-Billings*).

Appropriates \$200,000 to the attorney general to litigate for coal ports in the Pacific Northwest. *See page 9.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 33 to 17.*
- *House: 3rd reading, passed 53 to 45.*

Status: *Law.*

I = SB 160 (Sen. Duane Ankney, *R-Colstrip*).

Would have weakened water quality standards by defining "natural" conditions as including all human activities, in violation of the federal Clean Water Act. *See page 6.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 36 to 14.*
- *House: Rep. Williams' motion to amend, failed 41 to 59.*

Status: *Vetoed by the Governor.*

J = HB 421 (Rep. Tom Berry, *R-Roundup*).

Extends the termination date of the coal severance tax coal washing credit, costing the State over \$1.5 million per year in lost revenue and reducing local revenues by \$400,000. *See page 10.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 36 to 14.*
- *House: 3rd reading, passed 58 to 41.*

Status: *Law.*

K = SJ 13 (Sen. Duane Ankney, *R-Colstrip*).

Requires notice be given to Montana's Congressional delegation and other federal decision makers that Montana supports coal development, the building of coal export terminals, and the export of Montana coal to Asian markets. *See page 10.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 2nd reading, passed 38 to 12.*
- *House: 2nd reading, passed 73 to 27.*

Status: *Resolution adopted.*

L = SB 286 (Rep. Cary Smith, *R-Billings*).

Would have prevented agencies from promulgating any rules that would burden private property rights. *See page 7.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *Senate: 3rd reading, passed 29 to 21.*

Status: *Tabled in the House State Administration Committee.*

M = SB 402 (Sen. Duane Ankney, *R-Colstrip*).

Would have forced uneconomic coal plants such as Colstrip to stay open and pollute for decades by subjecting

the owners to multimillion dollar penalties if they decided to close the plants. *See page 18.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Votes used:

- *Senate: 2nd reading, passed 26 to 24.*
- *House: 2nd reading, failed 43 to 57.*

Status: *Failed 3rd reading in the House.*

N = SB 353 (Sen. Rick Ripley, *R-Wolf Creek*).

Would have diverted funds away from the Permanent Coal Tax Trust Fund to an infrastructure program. *See page 7.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *House: 3rd reading, passed 59 to 41.*

Status: *Failed to pass the Senate following Conference Committee amendments, 30 to 19.*

O = SB 409 (Sen. Chas Vincent, *R-Libby*).

Provides for increased regulation and oversight of hardrock mine tailings impoundments to prevent leaks and breaches. *See page 4.*

MEIC Position: *Support.*

Vote used:

- *House: Rep. Dunwell's motion to amend, failed 40 to 60.*

Status: *Law.*

P = SB 325 (Sen. Jim Keane, *R-Butte*).

Removes protections for downstream water users, such as irrigators, by overturning a regulation adopted by the State Board of Environmental Review after years of analysis. *See page 8.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *House: Rep. Bennett's motion to amend, passed 51 to 49.*

Status: *Law.*

Q = HB 182 (Rep. Forrest Mandeville, *R-Columbus*).

Would have prohibited a local governing body from considering how land that is proposed to be subdivided would be used unless the land is zoned. *See page 7.*

MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *House: 3rd reading, failed 50 to 50.*

Status: *Failed 3rd reading in the House.*

R = SB 402 (Sen. Duane Ankney, *R-Colstrip*).

Would have forced uneconomic coal plants such as Colstrip to stay open and pollute for decades by subjecting the owners to multimillion dollar penalties if they decided to close the plants. *See page 18.*

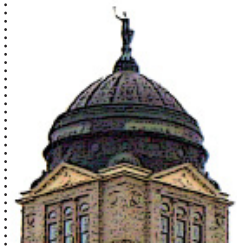
MEIC Position: *Oppose.*

Vote used:

- *House: Rep. Steenberg's motion to amend, failed 39 to 60.*

Status: *Failed 3rd reading in the House.*

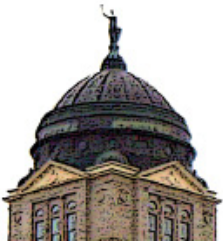
2015 Voting Record: Montana Senate



Blue boxes indicate when legislators changed their vote between a committee hearing and the floor vote.

Senator	Town	Score	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Ankney, Duane	Colstrip	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arntzen, Elsie	Billings	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Barrett, Debby	Dillon	8%	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Barrett, Dick	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Blasdel, Mark	Kalispell	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brenden, John	Scobey	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown, Taylor	Huntley	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown, Dee	Hungry Horse	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Buttrey, Edward	Great Falls	8%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caferro, Mary	Helena	62%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
Cohenour, Jill	East Helena	92%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Connell, Pat	Hamilton	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Driscoll, Robyn	Billings	85%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Facey, Tom	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fielder, Jennifer	Thompson Falls	8%	-	-	-	+	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hamlett, Bradley	Cascade	38%	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Hansen, Kristin	Havre	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinkle, Jedediah	Bozeman	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hoven, Brian	Great Falls	15%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Howard, David	Park City	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jones, Llew	Conrad	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kary, Doug	Billings	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kaufmann, Christine	Helena	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Keane, Jim	Butte	31%	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Keenan, Bob	Bigfork	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Larsen, Cliff	Missoula	77%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
Malek, Sue	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
McNally, Mary	Billings	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Moe, Mary	Great Falls	100%	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Moore, Frederick	Miles City	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phillips, Mike	Bozeman	92%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Pomnichowski, J.P.	Bozeman	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ripley, Rick	Wolf Creek	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rosendale, Matthew	Glendive	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Sales, Scott	Bozeman	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sands, Diane	Missoula	92%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Sesso, Jon	Butte	54%	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
Smith, Cary	Billings	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	Crow Agency	77%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+
Swandal, Nels	Wilsall	0%	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor, Janna	Dayton	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Thomas, Fred	Stevensville	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Tutvedt, Bruce	Kalispell	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vance, Gordon	Belgrade	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vincent, Chas	Libby	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vuckovich, Gene	Anaconda	46%	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Webb, Roger	Billings	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Whitford, Lea	Cut Bank	85%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Windy Boy, Jonathan	Box Elder	75%	-	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
Wolken, Cynthia	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Senator	Town	Score	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

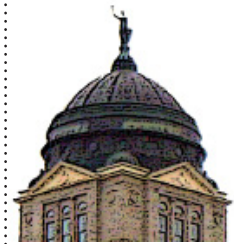
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Representative	Town	Score	A	B	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R
Ballance, Nancy	Hamilton	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bennett, Bryce	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bennett, Jerry	Libby	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Berglee, Seth	Joliet	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Berry, Tom	Roundup	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brodehl, Randy	Kalispell	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Brown, Bob	Thompson Falls	17%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Brown, Zach	Bozeman	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Burnett, Tom	Bozeman	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
Clark, Christy	Choteau	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Cook, Rob	Conrad	8%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Court, Virginia	Billings	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cuffe, Mike	Eureka	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Curdy, Willis	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Custer, Geraldine	Forsyth	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Doane, Alan	Bloomfield	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Dudik, Kimberly	Missoula	92%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Dunwell, Mary Ann	Helena	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Eck, Jenny	Helena	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ehli, Ron	Hamilton	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Ellis, Janet	Helena	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Essmann, Jeff	Billings	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiscus, Clayton	Billings	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fitzpatrick, Steve	Great Falls	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flynn, Kelly	Townsend	18%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	A
Funk, Moffie	Helena	83%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Garner, Frank	Kalispell	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glimm, Carl	Kila	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Greef, Edward	Florence	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Hagstrom, Dave	Billings	0%	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris, Bill	Winnett	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hayman, Denise	Bozeman	92%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hertz, Greg	Polson	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hess, Stephanie	Havre	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Boldman Hill, Ellie	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hollandsworth, Roy	Brady	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Holmlund, Kenneth	Miles City	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Hunter, Chuck	Helena	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jacobson, Tom	Great Falls	58%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Jones, Donald	Billings	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Karjala, Jessica	Billings	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kelker, Kathy	Billings	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kipp III, George	Heart Butte	82%	+	A	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Knudsen, Austin	Culbertson	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Lamm, Debra	Livingston	17%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Lang, Mike	Malta	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laszloffy, Sarah	Billings	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Lavin, Steve	Kalispell	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Lieser, Ed	Whitefish	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lynch, Ryan	Butte	50%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
Representative	Town	Score	A	B	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R

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Representative	Town	Score	A	B	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R
MacDonald, Margaret	Billings	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mandeville, Forrest	Columbus	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manzella, Theresa	Hamilton	17%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
McCarthy, Kelly	Billings	83%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
McClafferty, Edie	Butte	67%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
McConnell, Nate	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
McKamey, Wendy	Great Falls	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Mehlhoff, Robert	Great Falls	42%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
Meyers, Bruce	Box Elder	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Miller, Mike	Helmville	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Monforton, Matthew	Bozeman	17%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Moore, David	Missoula	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mortensen, Dale	Billings	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Noland, Mark	Bigfork	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Noonan, Pat	Ramsay	67%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
Olsen, Andrea	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Olzewski, Albert	Kalispell	25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+
Osmundson, Ryan	Buffalo	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Pease-Lopez, Carolyn	Billings	92%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Peppers, Rae	Lame Deer	67%	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+
Perry, Zac	Hungry Horse	67%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
Person, Andrew	Missoula	75%	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Pierson, Gordon	Deer Lodge	58%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Pinocci, Randall	Sun River	17%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Pope, Christopher	Bozeman	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Price, Jean	Great Falls	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Randall, Lee	Broadus	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redfield, Alan	Livingston	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Regier, Keith	Kalispell	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ricci, Vince	Laurel	25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
Richmond, Tom	Billings	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salomon, Daniel	Ronan	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Schreiner, Casey	Great Falls	50%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
Schwaderer, Nicholas	Superior	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shaw, Ray	Sheridan	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Smith, Bridget	Wolf Point	58%	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Staffanson, Scott	Sidney	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steenberg, Tom	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Swanson, Kathy	Anaconda	67%	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Tropila, Mitch	Great Falls	83%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tschida, Brad	Missoula	25%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
Wagoner, Kirk	Montana City	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Webber, Susan	Browning	92%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Welborn, Jeffrey	Dillon	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
White, Kerry	Bozeman	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williams, Kathleen	Bozeman	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wilson, Nancy	Missoula	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wittich, Art	Bozeman	33%	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
Woods, Tom	Bozeman	100%	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Zolnikov, Daniel	Billings	33%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
Representative	Town	Score	A	B	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R