



## Your “insider’s guide” to the 2013 Legislature

**W**elcome to the first issue of MEIC’s **Capitol Monitor** for the 2013 legislative session. As usual, you can expect to receive high-quality and up-to-date information on the Montana Legislative Session.

We expect this session will be one of the most challenging in MEIC’s 40-year history. We hope that by communicating promptly and frequently with you—our members—you will be able to participate more effectively in our lobbying efforts.

And—no kidding—we need your help. Our lobbyists cannot do it alone. Protecting the environment this session will require everyone’s efforts. So please use the **Capitol Monitor** and our website ([www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org)) to get involved. Let’s protect the things that make Montana special.

Legislators need to be told over and over that Montanans want clean air, clean water, clean energy, and the right to participate in government decision making. If they don’t hear from you, it could be that they will only hear from well-heeled, self-interested lobbyists. **It’s your choice.**



### Let the games begin

**W**hen the Legislature convenes on Monday, January 7th, we expect to hit the ground running. Most seasoned observers of the legislative process predict it will be similar to the craziness of the 2011 Legislative Session. If the bill draft requests already submitted by legislators are any indication, many of our environmental laws, public health safeguards, and public participation rights will be on the chopping block. Last session the governor vetoed many of the worst bills. We expect all of those vetoed bills to be re-introduced.

Given the attacks, part of MEIC’s response will be providing our members with up-to-the-minute information about what’s going on at the Capitol. Our website will be updated daily so you can follow the bills and issues that you care about most. MEIC will also regularly publish **Capitol Monitor** with the most recent information on the important upcoming bills and hearings. To follow the session and read the MEIC Blog, go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org).

MEIC also invites you to join us during the session to help us lobby during one of our Citizen Lobby Days. We will help guide you through the steps you need to effectively talk to your legislator about issues that matter to you. Please sign up for one or all of our citizen lobby days and let us help you protect the environment. Plan to attend one or all on Jan. 24, Feb. 13, Mar. 8 and Apr. 9.

## A How-to Guide for Engaging During the 2013 Session

### MEIC Legislative Bill Tracker

MEIC maintains and regularly updates a **Legislative Bill Tracker** on our website (go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org) and look under “2013 Legislature”) that includes the important legislative proposals that could impact Montana’s environment. All of the bills on our bill tracker are categorized by issue, offer an easy-to-understand description, list MEIC’s position, and it includes a tool for contacting key legislators.

### Capitol Monitor & Blog

On MEIC’s website you can find an electronic version of **Capitol Monitor** (go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org) and look under “Media Center”), as well as a sign-up form to receive **Capitol Monitor** and other alerts by E-mail. MEIC also maintains a blog (go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org) and look under “Media Center”) that has frequent posts about environmental and energy issues affecting Montana, and will include relevant writings on the 2013 Montana Legislative Session.

### Calendar of Events

MEIC and other environmental organizations will hold “lobby days,” host legislative socials, and schedule membership meetings across the state to provide legislative updates. MEIC regularly updates our online events calendar, where you can view the details of different events (go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org) and look under “Get Involved/Attend an Event”).



## An Advance Peek at the Issues

*Here are some of the environmental issues likely to be raised this session.*

**CONSTITUTION AND MEPA.** We can expect numerous attacks on our constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, and our right to hold government agencies and large corporations accountable when they fail to comply with public health and environmental laws. In addition, there are almost a dozen bills requested to change the Montana Environmental Policy Act – again!

One bill that has already finished the drafting stage and has been introduced is **SB 17** (Sen. Jason Priest, *R-Red Lodge*). It would amend the Montana Constitution to say everyone has the right to “use” their property. This language sounds a lot like “takings” proposals that have been defeated in previous sessions. It appears that this language is intended to provide people with a constitutional right to use their property, regardless of how it might impact their neighbors. If that is not his goal than his proposed amendment is meaningless as the Montana Constitution already provides a right to acquire, possess, and protect property.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION.** There will be attempts during this legislature to roll back the few policies that support a clean energy future in Montana. These rollbacks include undermining the state Renewable Energy Standard that requires public utilities to

acquire 15% of their energy from new renewable resources by 2015. For example, **SB 31** (Sen. Debbie Barrett, *R-Dillon*), would subvert the renewable energy standard by allowing all existing hydropower from large dams to be counted as an eligible renewable resource. That would threaten the feasibility of new renewable energy projects.

There will also be attempts to change policies that promote energy efficiency and energy conservation. Some positive changes may include increasing energy efficiency tax credits for homeowners and businesses. However, a negative proposed change includes **SB 74** (Sen. Jason Priest, *R-Red Lodge*), which undermines Montana’s Universal System Benefits (USB) program. USB is a crucial funding source for low income weatherization, energy efficiency, and smaller scale renewable energy projects.

**OIL AND GAS.** There are several bill requests to end or significantly alter the oil and gas “tax holiday”, a tax break for newly producing oil and gas wells for up to the first 18 months of production. It was originally put in place to incentivize new oil and gas development. With the recent and rapid increase in the development of oil and gas in Montana, mostly due to hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, it is obvious that incentives are not necessary.

### Save this Newsletter

This issue of **Capitol Monitor** includes lists of committee assignments and information about how to contact legislators. While this information will all be available on our web site ([www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org)) it will not all be repeated in future newsletters. Please put this issue in some prominent place on your refrigerator or in your “TO DO” pile so that you can refer to it in the future.

### And thank YOU for your support!

MEIC could not do any of its work without your support—helping with our lobbying efforts, paying your membership dues, and making special contributions in addition to buying Montana Futures Raffle tickets. **Thank you!**

## LEADERSHIP OF THE 63RD LEGISLATURE

### Officers of the Senate

**President:** Jeff Essmann, *R-Billings*

**President Pro Tempore:** Debby Barrett, *R-Dillon*

**Majority Leader:** Art Wittich, *R-Bozeman*

**Majority Whips:** Eric Moore, *R-Miles City*  
Janna Taylor, *R-Dayton*  
Llew Jones, *R-Conrad*

**Minority Leader:** Jon Sesso, *D-Butte*

**Minority Whip:** Robyn Driscoll, *D-Billings*  
Cliff Larsen, *D-Missoula*

### Officers of the House of Representatives

**Speaker:** Mark Blasdel, *R-Somers*

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Austin Knudsen, *R-Culbertson*

**Majority Leader:** Gordon Vance, *R-Bozeman*

**Majority Whips:** Mike Cuffe, *R-Eureka*  
Cary Smith, *R-Billings*  
Jeffrey Welborn, *R-Dillon*  
Christy Clark, *R-Choteau*

**Minority Leader:** Chuck Hunter, *D-Helena*

**Minority Caucus Chair:** Bryce Bennett, *D-Missoula*

**Minority Whips:** Margaret MacDonald, *D-Billings*  
Edie McClafferty, *D-Butte*

## CAPITOL MONITOR

**Capitol Monitor** is a publication of the Montana Environmental Information Center designed to keep our members informed about environmental issues at the Montana legislature.

**MEIC President:** Roger Sullivan  
**MEIC Executive Director:** James Jensen



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## 2013 Senate Committees\*

### NATURAL RESOURCES

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 422*

**Chair:** Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)  
**Vice Chair:** John Brenden (*R-Scobey*)

Debby Barrett (*R-Dillon*)  
Jennifer Fielder (*R-Thompson Falls*)  
Brad Hamlett (*D-Cascade*)  
Verdell Jackson (*R-Kalispell*)  
Christine Kaufmann (*D-Helena*)  
Jim Keane (*D-Butte*)

Cliff Larsen (*D-Missoula*)  
Mike Phillips (*D-Bozeman*)  
Rick Ripley (*R-Wolf Creek*)  
Matthew Rosendale (*R-Glendale*)  
Mitch Tropila (*D-Great Falls*)  
Ed Walker (*R-Billings*)

**Staff:** Sonja Nowakowski,  
444-3078

**Secretary:** Mary Kulawick,  
444-4889

### ENERGY AND

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 317*

**Chair:** Alan Olson (*R-Roundup*)  
**Vice Chair:** Verdell Jackson (*R-Kalispell*)

Ron Arthun (*R-Wilsall*)  
Robyn Driscoll (*D-Billings*)  
Jeff Essmann (*R-Billings*)  
Greg Jergeson (*D-Chinook*)  
Llew Jones (*R-Conrad*)

Christine Kaufmann (*D-Helena*)  
Cliff Larsen (*D-Missoula*)  
Jason Priest (*R-Red Lodge*)  
Mitch Tropila (*D-Great Falls*)  
Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)  
Ed Walker (*R-Billings*)

**Staff:** Sonja Nowakowski,  
444-3078

**Secretary:** Julie Emge,  
444-4751

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 405*

**Chair:** Ed Buttrey (*R-Great Falls*)  
**Vice Chair:** Janna Taylor (*R-Dayton*)

Shannon Augare (*D-Browning*)  
Dick Barrett (*D-Missoula*)

Scott Boulanger (*R-Darby*)  
Sue Malek (*D-Missoula*)  
Alan Olson (*R-Roundup*)  
Bruce Tutvedt (*R-Kalispell*)  
Gene Vuckovich (*D-Anaconda*)  
**Staff:** Leanne Kurtz, 444-3593  
**Secretary:** Charlene Devine,  
444-4610

### JUDICIARY

*M-F, 8 am, Room 303*

**Chair:** Terry Murphy (*R-Cardwell*)  
**Vice Chair:** Scott Sales (*R-Bozeman*)

Shannon Augare (*D-Browning*)  
Anders Blewett (*D-Great Falls*)  
Scott Boulanger (*R-Darby*)  
John Brenden (*R-Scobey*)  
Robyn Driscoll (*D-Billings*)  
Jennifer Fielder (*R-Thompson Falls*)  
Larry Jent (*D-Bozeman*)  
Cliff Larsen (*D-Missoula*)  
Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)  
Art Wittich (*R-Bozeman*)

**Staff:** Julianne Burkhardt,  
444-4025  
**Secretary:** Pam Schindler,  
444-4891

### FISH AND GAME

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 422*

**Chair:** John Brenden (*R-Scobey*)  
**Vice Chair:** Rick Ripley (*R-Wolf Creek*)

Debby Barrett (*R-Dillon*)  
Tom Facey (*D-Missoula*)  
Jennifer Fielder (*R-Thompson Falls*)  
Brad Hamlett (*D-Cascade*)  
Larry Jent (*D-Bozeman*)  
Jim Peterson (*R-Butte*)  
Fred Thomas (*R-Stevensville*)  
Kendall Van Dyk (*D-Billings*)

**Staff:** Jason Mohr, 444-1640  
**Secretary:** Mary Kulawick,  
444-4889

*\*This is only a partial list.*

## 2013 House Committees\*

### NATURAL RESOURCES

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 472*

**Chair:** Jerry Bennett (*R-Libby*)  
**Vice Chair:** Pat Connell (*R-Hamilton*)

**Vice Chair:** Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)  
Alan Doane (*R-Bloomfield*)  
Jenny Eck (*D-Helena*)  
Steve Fitzpatrick (*R-Great Falls*)

Wylie Galt (*R-Martinsdale*)  
Brian Hoven (*R-Great Falls*)  
Ed Lieser (*D-Whitefish*)  
Ryan Lynch (*D-Butte*)  
Mike Miller (*R-Helmville*)  
JP Pomnichowski (*D-Bozeman*)

Ray Shaw (*R-Sheridan*)  
Wendy Warburton (*R-Havre*)  
Kerry White (*R-Bozeman*)  
Kathleen Williams (*D-Bozeman*)  
**Staff:** Joe Kolman, 444-3747  
**Secretary:** Colleen Dever,  
444-4872

### FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 172*

**Chair:** Keith Regier (*R-Kalispell*)

**Vice Chair:** Jesse O'Hara (*R-Great Falls*)

**Vice Chair:** Mary McNally (*D-Billings*)

Tom Berry (*R-Roundup*)  
Carlie Boland (*D-Great Falls*)  
Roger Hagan (*R-Great Falls*)  
Doug Kary (*R-Billings*)  
Austin Knudsen (*R-Culbertson*)

Mike Lang (*R-Malta*)  
David Moore (*R-Missoula*)  
Rae Peppers (*D-Lame Deer*)  
Tom Steenberg (*D-Missoula*)  
Kathy Swanson (*D-Anaconda*)

Daniel Zolnikov (*R-Billings*)  
**Staff:** Hope Stockwell,

444-9280

**Secretary:** Molly Miltenberger,  
444-4264

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 172*

**Chair:** Liz Bangerter (*R-Helena*)

**Vice Chair:** Steve Fitzpatrick (*R-Great Falls*)

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Swanson (*D-Anaconda*)

Tom Berry (*R-Roundup*)  
Clarena Brockie (*D-Harlem*)  
Amanda Curtis (*D-Butte*)  
Roger Hagan (*R-Great Falls*)  
Pat Ingraham (*R-Thompson Falls*)

Steve Lavin (*R-Kalispell*)  
Mary McNally (*D-Billings*)

Jonathan McNiven (*R-Huntley*)

David Moore (*R-Missoula*)  
Jerry O'Neill (*R-Columbia Falls*)

Casey Schreiner (*D-Great Falls*)

Nicholas Schwaderer (*R-Superior*)  
Tom Steenberg (*D-Missoula*)

Nancy Wilson (*D-Missoula*)  
Daniel Zolnikov (*R-Billings*)

**Staff:** Ginger Aldrich,  
444-4464

**Secretary:** Sally Speer,  
444-1863

### JUDICIARY

*M-F, 8 am, Room 137*

**Chair:** Krayton Kerns (*R-Laurel*)

**Vice Chair:** Jerry Bennett (*R-Libby*)

**Vice Chair:** Margie MacDonald (*D-Billings*)

Mark Blasdel (*R-Somers*)  
Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)

Alan Doane (*R-Bloomfield*)  
Jenny Eck (*D-Helena*)

Clayton Fiscus (*R-Billings*)  
Jennifer Gursky (*D-Missoula*)

David Halvorson (*R-Sidney*)  
Ellie Boldman Hill (*D-Missoula*)

Sarah Laszloffy (*R-Laurel*)  
Dennis Lenz (*R-Billings*)  
Ryan Lynch (*D-Butte*)

Jerry O'Neill (*R-Columbia Falls*)  
Keith Regier (*R-Kalispell*)

Bridget Smith (*D-Wolf Point*)  
Kirk Wagoner (*R-Montana City*)

Wendy Warburton (*R-Havre*)

**Staff:** Helen Thigpen, 444-3804  
**Secretary:** Karen Armstrong,  
444-1862

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444-1862

### FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 152*

**Chair:** Jeffrey Welborn (*R-Dillon*)

**Vice Chair:** Doug Kary (*D-Billings*)

**Vice Chair:** Franke Wilmer (*D-Bozeman*)

Carlie Boland (*D-Great Falls*)  
Pat Connell (*R-Hamilton*)

Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)  
Alan Doane (*R-Bloomfield*)

Kelly Flynn (*R-Townsend*)  
Edward Greef (*R-Florence*)

Brian Hoven (*R-Great Falls*)  
Tom Jacobson (*D-Great Falls*)

Ed Lieser (*D-Whitefish*)  
JP Pomnichowski (*D-Bozeman*)

Jean Price (*D-Great Falls*)  
Ray Shaw (*R-Sheridan*)

Bridget Smith (*D-Wolf Point*)  
Gordon Vance (*R-Bozeman*)

Kirk Wagoner (*R-Montana City*)  
Wendy Warburton (*R-Bozeman*)

Ted Washburn (*R-Bozeman*)  
Kerry White (*R-Bozeman*)

**Staff:** Hope Stockwell,  
444-9280

**Secretary:** Marissa Stockton,  
444-1864

*\*This is only a partial list.*

## How to Contact Your Legislators

If you do not know who your legislator is, you can search by zip code on Project Vote Smart's website: [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org)

### By computer:

MEIC will regularly offer ways to contact legislators via our 2013 Legislative Session page and online bill tracker:

<http://meic.org/issues/2013-montana-legislative-session/>

Some legislators have private e-mail accounts listed on the Legislative Roster:

[www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/62nd/roster.asp](http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/62nd/roster.asp)

### By telephone:

To leave a message for your legislator or for session information, call **(406) 444-4800** between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. until adjournment on Saturday. You may need to be patient; the line has been understaffed in previous years.

### By mail:

Montana Senate  
P.O. Box 200500  
Helena, MT 59620

Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620





## MEIC's Team at the Capitol

Leading MEIC's lobbying staff at the Capitol is **Anne Hedges**, MEIC's Program Director. Anne joined MEIC in May 1993, and has lobbied every session since. She handles a wide range of issues that are important to MEIC members including energy, land-use planning, environmental policy, and air quality.

**Jim Jensen** has been MEIC's Executive Director since 1985. He attended Westminster College in Salt Lake City and holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Montana (1980). Jim will focus primarily on clean water and mining issues at the legislature.

**Kyla Maki** will be lobbying primarily on renewable energy and energy efficiency issues. She is beginning her fifth year at MEIC, having lobbied during the 2009 and 2011 sessions. Kyla graduated from the University of Montana in 2006, obtaining a degree in Wildlife Biology with an emphasis in Political Science from the College of Forestry and Conservation.

**Derf Johnson** will be lobbying primarily on oil and gas development and energy issues. He is beginning his third year at MEIC, having lobbied during the 2011 session. He is a graduate of the UM School of Law, and originally hails from Bozeman.



Left to right: Kyla Maki; Anne Hedges; Jim Jensen; and Derf Johnson



### Save paper and money

**D**o you want to save paper, have one less item in your mailbox, and save MEIC much-needed funds this session? **Send us your e-mail address.** We'll remove your name from our postal mail list and add you to our **e-Activists** list. You'll receive **Capitol Monitor**, updates on the bills we're lobbying, and alerts when important bills need an extra push from citizens speaking out by contacting their legislators. Send your e-mail address to Adam McLane: [mclane@meic.org](mailto:mclane@meic.org). **THANK YOU!**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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