Please Support:

HB 241, Require public utilities to report a plan for 100% renewable use, Rep. Andrea Olsen (D-Missoula) H-Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations, Hearing 1/23/2019 Rm.472 3:00p.m., Support. Throughout the country 100% clean energy goals are rapidly becoming mainstream. California - one of the largest economies in the world - and Hawaii both passed state laws to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. In Washington state, legislation has been introduced to require them to achieve 100% clean energy also by 2045. Additionally, over 100 cities around the country have committed to 100% clean energy goals. Mapping out the options, timelines, challenges, and benefits for Montana public utilities to reach 100% clean energy would be a prudent step forward. Contact Brian Fadie, MEIC, 406-443-2520, bfadie@meic.org

Please Oppose:

HB 144, Eliminate certain tax credits, Rep. Alan Redfield (R-Livingston), Hearing, House Taxation, 1/24/19 at 9am, Rm. 124, Oppose. HB 144 would harm solar jobs and deter local investment by thousands of Montanans by eliminating tax incentives for rooftop solar systems. Instead of seeking to help these new jobs and businesses grow, this bill bluntly targets net metering tax credits for elimination. When the Republican controlled legislature first passed net metering in 1999, it found that “it is in the public interest to promote net metering because it encourages private investment in renewable energy resources, stimulates Montana’s economic growth, and enhances the continued diversification of the energy resources used in Montana.” The elimination of these tax credits would do the exact opposite. Contact Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association, 406-214-9405, andrew@montanarenewables.org

HB 161, Establish requirements for fish and wildlife decision making processes Rep. Tschida (R-Missoula) Hearing H-Fish, Wildlife & Parks,1/22/2019 at 3pm, Room 172., Oppose. This bill seeks to limit consideration of almost everyone in decisions on public fish and wildlife management. It would narrow the people the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to only landowners and take the public out of wildlife. It seeks to remove social science and people's opinions and removes several times from state law the enjoyment by the public of wildlife, replacing it with the use. Contact Nick Gevock, MWF, 406.533.943, ngevock@mtwf.org

HB 203, Provide bonding for purchase of coal-fired energy generation Rep. Garcia (R-Billings) Hearing H-Energy, Technology & Federal Relations, 1/21/2019 at 3pm Rm.472, Oppose. This bill would authorize the state to issue $500 million in bonds to purchase and
operate existing coal-fired power plants that are currently owned and operated by the private sector. The bond revenue would be used by a newly created, unaccountable, five-member board to oversee the purchase, operation, and sale of electricity in the market. The bill does not mention the cleanup liabilities the state would inherit should it buy into one of these plants. Contact Anne Hedges, MEIC, 406-461-9546, ahedges@meic.org