

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR AND ENERGY**

**Seventy-sixth Session
April 26, 2011**

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy was called to order by Chair Michael A. Schneider at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412E, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Michael A. Schneider, Chair
Senator Shirley A. Breeden, Vice Chair
Senator David R. Parks
Senator Allison Copening
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Elizabeth Halseth
Senator Michael Roberson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Young, Policy Analyst
Matt Nichols, Counsel
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Enos, Nevada Motor Transport Association

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

I will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 496. There are two components to this bill, a solar component and a biodiesel component. We did hear testimony on April 25 regarding the solar portion of the bill.

SENATE BILL 496: Makes various changes relating to renewable energy.
(BDR 58-1280)

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SENATOR ROBERSON:

I would like to hear from Mr. Gunnerman, because he may be directly impacted by this legislation.

PAUL ENOS (Nevada Motor Transport Association):

I do have a letter ([Exhibit C](#)) from Peter Gunnerman and will read some of it. I talked to Mr. Gunnerman on the phone and know there is an amendment in the works. I have not seen it, but understand it would exempt feedstock for those with approved alternative fuels under *Nevada Revised Statute* 486A. However, if that amendment goes into effect, Mr. Gunnerman's fuel, GDiesel, would be the only fuel that could be claimed to be a Nevada fuel. It would forever be the only Nevada fuel. This would stifle the ability of a new Peter Gunnerman, or anyone else, to develop a fuel using Nevada feedstock. We believe this bill would create a barrier entering the market and discourage the Peter Gunnermans of the future.

SENATOR BREEDEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.B. 496 BY REMOVING THE BIODIESEL PORTION OF THE BILL.

SENATOR COPENING SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR COPENING:

I have talked to parties on both sides of these two issues. Both portions of the bill contain elements that could be beneficial and elements that could be detrimental, but sometimes we do not know how something will work until we try. I have some hesitation on both sides; both in supporting the solar component and removing the diesel component. For the proponents of diesel, I know you believe in what you are bringing forward. I just do not know if this is the right time. I wanted to put those comments on the record.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I appreciate taking out the biodiesel. Regarding solar power, I have always been worried about the effects on the ratepayer. If there is someone from the consumer industry here, I would appreciate hearing from that person. I agree there are too many numbers being thrown around, and too much difference in those numbers, so I question their validity. But I do believe they have some validity.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

We do have a motion. I hate to take testimony when there is a motion on the floor.

SENATOR ROBERSON:

I was trying to ask if Dan Jacobsen could come up. I may be persuaded to vote for this bill, but I would like to hear from Dan Jacobsen on how this affects the consumer before I vote on it. Would Senator Breeden be willing to rescind her motion to allow a couple minutes of testimony?

SENATOR BREEDEN:

Senator Roberson, I am just looking at the time. We have to be on the Senate Floor in five minutes.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS HALSETH, ROBERSON AND SETTELMAYER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy is adjourned at
10:55 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Linda Hiller,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Michael A. Schneider, Chair

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
S.B. 496	C	Peter Gunnerman	Letter