

**ASSOCIATION OF GALLATIN AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATORS  
2009 WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS  
March 1, 2009**

The last week was devoted entirely to floor action in the House and the Senate. There were multiple bills that AGAI tracked and worked on during the week to make sure that legislators knew our position our reasons for supporting or opposing a piece of legislation before they took floor action. Please do not hesitate to let either Krista or Walt know about issues of concern, comments, and thoughts.

**Reports on Hearings and Committee Action February 22-February 27**

**No hearings – transmittal week.**

**Reports on House and/or Senate Floor Action – February 22- February 27**

**SB 94 – Jent – Passed on Senate Floor 34-15 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and 34-16 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading  
SB 461 – Brueggeman – Killed on Senate Floor. 11- 39**

**Reports on Bills Heard but still in Committee – February 22 – February 27**

**HB 52 – (McNutt, R – Sidney) – Fund hydrogeologic Study was heard by House Appropriations on January 12. All those who testified were proponents. AGAI supported the legislation stating it is critical to provide sound, unbiased science so that informed decisions may be made with regard to water allocation in Montana. Estimated cost per basin for the ground water study is \$600,000. MT Bureau of Mines and Geology has determined that approximately 7 basins could be studied per biennium. It would take approximately 5 bienniums to complete all of the basins in MT. Rep. McNutt requested that the legislation be held until the budget picture was better understood. The bill requests \$4.2 million per biennium. Executive Action has not been scheduled. [AGAI support]**

**Hearings for the week of March 2 – March 6**

**(Note: A hearing only requires a two day notice so this list may change)**

<a href="#">SB 120</a>	LC0287	Ryan Zinke	(H) Hearing -- (H) Natural Resources	03/04/2009; 3:00 PM, Rm 472	Revise the controlled groundwater area petition laws
<a href="#">HB 39</a>	LC0428	Jill Cohenour	(S) Hearing -- (S) Natural Resources	03/06/2009; 3:00 PM, Rm 422	Revise water right enforcement laws
<a href="#">HB 40</a>	LC0430	Jill Cohenour	(S) Hearing -- (S) Natural Resources	03/06/2009; 3:00 PM, Rm 422	Revise water right permit process



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<a href="#">HB 41</a>	LC0433	Jill Cohenour	(S) Hearing -- (S) Natural Resources	03/06/2009; 3:00 PM, Rm 422	Revise water quality laws for aquifer recharge or mitigation
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**Bills Assigned to Committee but not yet Scheduled for Hearing:**

<a href="#">SB 8</a>	LC0192	Ken (Kim) Hansen	(H) Hearing -- (H) Local Government	03/10/2009; 3:00 PM, Rm 172	Authorize regional water entities
<a href="#">SB 303</a>	LC0463	David E Wanzenried	(S) Hearing -- (S) Finance and Claims	03/09/2009; 8:00 AM, Rm 317	Update state water plan
<a href="#">SB 465</a>	LC1635	Bradley Hamlett	(S) Hearing -- (S) Taxation	03/11/2009; 8:00 AM, Rm 405	Clarify ownership of streambeds concerning property taxation

**Bill Drafts of Concern**

<a href="#">LC0046</a>	02/08/2008	Bob Story	(C) Draft On Hold	10/08/2008	Criteria for determination of market value for state land occupied by dams
<a href="#">LC0587</a>	10/15/2008	Jim Shockley	(C) Draft On Hold	01/05/2009	Emergency use of surface water
<a href="#">LC0692</a>	11/05/2008	Jerry W Black	(C) Draft On Hold	11/18/2008	Irrigation sustainability and development act
<a href="#">LC1396</a>	12/04/2008	Kelly Gebhardt	(C) Draft On Hold	01/14/2009	Revise water rights permitting process
<a href="#">LC2077</a>	01/07/2009	Mike Menahan	(C) Draft On Hold	01/31/2009	Limit exempt wells in high growth counties

