

1-29-2017

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>. In this update, I want to report on the small number of bills I have sponsored this session. Being on the Appropriations Committee has eaten up a lot of my time, so I have refrained from sponsoring many bills.

I brought HB 120 early in the process. It would have allowed county commissions the ability to petition the Wyoming Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on stretches of highways within their jurisdictions. Further, it would have required WYDOT to respond to the petition in a set period of time. The bill was in response to a situation last year, when I had to call a public meeting and pressure WYDOT to look at a lower speed limit south of Pinedale. To WYDOT's credit, it is now trying a pilot night-time speed limit on that stretch. I felt there was a better process for review than a legislator exerting pressure on a state agency. In the House, my colleagues had concerns that the bill would allow counties to create speed traps. HB 120 would have left the decision up to WYDOT, so I believe those concerns were unfounded, but the bill died by one vote.

I am also sponsoring HB 227, which would require a notice for auto-renewing consumer contracts with a term of more than 12 months. It is hard for folks to remember when these long term auto-renewing contracts are up, if they want to cancel their contract. I am sure this will bring up lots of debate, but I think it is only fair that the consumer be given a notice before a long term contract is automatically renewed. This bill will be heard in the Corporations Committee on Tuesday.

Some people have started selling GPS locations of big buck deer over the internet. This is occurring even in the western mountains of Wyoming. My bill, HB 229, would define hunt consultation services as a guide service, and regulate them like guides and outfitters. If you are selling locations of big bucks, then in my opinion, you are conducting a guide service, and should be regulated like every other guide. In fact, one website states that in 2016, clients took two bucks that scored over 193 inches. I simply don't like this practice, and would be

interested in what my Sublette County hunters think. The bill would not apply to someone who uses GPS to locate animals for his own or his friends' hunts.

My most controversial bill is HB 272. It would require a decal or electronic decal for mountain bike riders on public lands. The money from the decal would be split between mountain bike trail maintenance and endangered species management. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department would be the recipient of money to help its endangered species programs, and State Parks would get money for mountain bike trail maintenance or improvements. It is hard to find a way for non-consumptive uses of Wyoming's natural resources to pay for wildlife management. This would be one way to capture some money for endangered species management, and at the same time improve trails for a burgeoning mountain bike industry. The decals would also be made available to the general (non-mountain-biking) public who wish to support endangered species programs. It is not my intent to pass the bill this session, but just to get the idea out there in front of citizens and be examined next interim by the Travel, Recreation, and Wildlife Committee.

I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com)

Thanks

Albert