

1-31-2017

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Tuesday, January 31. Today in Committee of the Whole (COW), we heard a bill that would have adjusted the minimum wage upward slightly. The bill failed, and I voted against it.

We also heard HB 253, a bill I co-sponsored. This bill would provide \$25 million for large project economic development loans from our Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (also called the "Rainy Day" account). Currently, money from the "Rainy Day" account is invested in low-returning instruments all over the world. I support using some of this money to encourage economic development to build the future of this state. Wyoming has three recent successes with this program, and this bill would add to the momentum. HB 253 also included a broadband component, but that was repealed in committee. I hope to bring an amendment to reincorporate support for broadband efforts.

HB 215, drug induced infant endangerment, died in COW. I voted against the bill. It went too far in penalizing pregnant drug-abusing women and the drug dealers selling to them. Even though I worry about those unborn children, this bill was not well thought-out, with potential unintended consequences.

Thanks

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