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Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Monday, February 27. Today, the full Senate and the House approved the Supplemental Budget compromise, which ended months of work by the Appropriations Committee. Some bills remain in the Senate that would raise fees for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Department of Transportation. These bills are needed to sustain the agencies after we move them off General Fund dollars, and onto revenues created by fees they assess for licenses and registrations. The bill that increases fees and licenses to help fund the Wyoming Game and Fish Department was heavily amended in the Senate today, which may make it hard to reconcile with the House position.

Today in Committee of the Whole we heard Senate Files which proposed to:

- continue a tax exemption for machinery manufacturers
- regulate mid-sized unmanned aircraft
- revise the nurse practice act
- update the Wyoming Pharmacy Act
- tax the land under ranch outbuildings at the same rate as other Agricultural land.

These bills all passed Committee of the Whole, and I supported them. A bill died in Committee of the Whole today that would have given military spouses an interview preference when seeking a state job. A different bill that succeeded this session provided a hiring preference to veterans and surviving spouses, but the bill today seemed to go too far in dictating hiring practices. I didn't support this bill. I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com

Goodnight for now.