

2-14-2018

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Wednesday February 14. Today, HB44 failed introduction. This bill would have increased the tax on liquor. I voted against this proposed tax increase. I also voted against HB94, which was an attempt to position Wyoming to receive the transfer of federal lands to the state. This bill also failed. I have yet to see a proposal for the transfer of federal lands to the state that makes sense. For instance, a proposal that protects those of us who work, graze, and recreate on those federal lands.

I also voted against HB105, which failed on an introductory vote. This bill would have prohibited the implementation of immigration sanctuary policies by cities, towns and counties. I do not believe counties or municipalities should declare themselves sanctuary cities or counties, but this bill was not the answer because it was too loosely written. HB105 required cities and counties to certify that they were not protecting illegal immigrants before they could receive state money. However, there was no process in the bill for such certification.

I voted for introduction of HB138 and HB75, which would have carved off a portion of the lottery and pari-mutuel revenues, respectively, for use by the state. HB138 passed introduction; HB75 failed. I also voted for HB141, which would remove the prohibition for carrying a concealed weapon in a place of worship, but allows the place of worship to restrict the ability to carry in its building. The bill passed Introduction. I voted against HB48, which would have significantly increased the fines for cruelty to animals. I based this vote on the fact that the penalty would have been greater for assaulting an animal than for assaulting a spouse. The bill failed. I voted for HB146, which would increase the penalty for violating the State's equal pay provisions, and make the fine similar to other related penalties. This bill passed.

If you have comments or questions, I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com

Thank you