

3-7-2018

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Wednesday, March 7. Today on third reading, with my support, the ENDOW bills for commercial air service improvement, broadband grants, an international trade representative, and agricultural marketing passed the House after considerable debate.

We passed bills in Committee of the Whole on vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, a drug donation disbursement program, two more ENDOW bills, a governmental efficiency bill, and an opioid addiction task force bill.

SF74 was heavily debated in Committee of the Whole today. This bill would designate crimes against critical infrastructure. It was brought in response to the damage that occurred to property during the Keystone Pipeline protests, raising concerns that similar damage could occur in Wyoming. I believe the penalties, which included a \$1 million fine, go too far; they would be unprecedented in Wyoming statutes. The bill would consider power lines critical infrastructure, and as a landowner, I worry about unintended consequences of extreme penalties for violations. If a rancher's employee maliciously knocked down a power pole using the rancher's tractor, could that rancher be held in violation of this Act, because he "aided" the employee by assigning him a tractor. This bill is poorly written, and has been amended so many times it is hard to even read.

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Thank you