

2/14/2022

### First Day of Session

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on February 14, the first day of the 2022 Budget Session. The 66th Legislative Session opened with Governor Gordon's State of the State address and Chief Justice Fox's State of the Judiciary address.

In his address, Governor Gordon reflected on the many challenges Wyoming has faced over the last year. He noted Wyoming can be resilient through it all. Gordon sees potential for Wyoming's future highlighting the importance of innovation instead of regulation as a crucial way to continue providing energy and solving climate concerns. Governor Gordon emphasized new opportunities as they relate to coal, mining, and wind as essential to our state's future as an energy exporter.

Governor Gordon stressed that education must continue to be one of Wyoming's top priorities. He explained that well-educated students, plus a surplus of new opportunities, will benefit our economy and help keep our young people in Wyoming. The Wyoming Innovation Partnership will be a key tool in achieving that goal. Governor Gordon then recognized two teachers who have made a significant difference in this effort: Brittany Montgomery of Casper and Alexis Barney of Evansville, who were honored as Teachers of the Year.

Chief Justice Kate M. Fox followed the Governor with a judicial update. Justice Fox discussed the importance of the judiciary system and the role the judiciary plays in upholding our constitutional rights. She detailed challenges such as hiring and retaining quality employees on a limited budget. Fox asked for a budget increase and explained that this money will serve Wyoming by ensuring a more efficient and well-run judiciary.

In the afternoon, the House began its bill introduction process. Speaker Barlow assigned HB100 – Legislative redistricting, to the House Education Committee, on which I serve.

A consent list of multiple committee bills was presented to the body for introduction vote. Any member of the House can pull a bill off the consent list. A bill removed from the consent list must be separately debated and voted on for introduction. If a bill is approved for introduction,

the Speaker assigns it to a standing committee. The committee chairman then decides when or if the committee will hear public testimony, debate the bill, and vote on it.

The House will continue to vote on bills for introduction through Friday.

I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com) with questions or concerns. The Legislative website can be accessed at <https://wyoleg.gov/>. This website will show you all the bills before the Legislature.