

3/3/22

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 3. Today we heard bills on 2nd Reading, had final vote on bills in 3rd Reading, and voted on bills in Committee of the Whole.

[SF0066](#) - American rescue plan act recovery funds appropriations, was voted on today in 3rd reading, and passed with many amendments. One beneficial amendment that passed is [SF0066H3015](#) - healthcare staffing and stabilization. Our hospitals and other healthcare facilities have been under a lot of pressure and have struggled to maintain staff throughout the pandemic. Maintaining quality healthcare staff is crucial. This amendment appropriates \$3 million to help stabilize medical services. I believe this is a good use of ARPA COVID relief funds and I voted in favor of this amendment.

[SF0006](#) - Aquatic invasive species-inspection enforcement, passed Committee of the Whole today. This bill states that if someone fails to stop for a conveyance inspection of watercraft for aquatic invasive species, as required by law, they will be charged with a misdemeanor that is punishable by up to \$5,000. Additionally, violators will not be allowed in any state parks or in any state recreation area for 3 years. Aquatic invasive species is a growing threat to our waterways, and I believe that measures such as these are necessary to protect our ecosystems and water facilities.

[SF0049](#) - Repeal of Specified State Boards and Commissions, also passed Committee of the Whole today. This bill comes from a recommendation by the Efficiency Commission, in a recent efficiency study of state government. One conclusion from this study was that Wyoming state government had too many boards and commissions. This bill is an attempt to eliminate unnecessary boards, like the palliative care advisory council, which has completed its assigned work. I support this bill.

[SF0009](#) - Revenue Bonds for Agricultural Endeavors. This measure is designed to recruit and retain agriculture processing businesses in the state of Wyoming. Wyoming citizens want a more diversified economy. This measure is in service to that goal. In short, this bill adds

bonding authority that will enable agricultural processing businesses to locate in Wyoming. Businesses must be headquartered in Wyoming. Additionally, Shoshoni and Arapaho tribes have also been permitted to participate. This bill intends to encourage Ag businesses to locate and operate here. I support this bill, but am not convinced that it will attract the Ag businesses its supporters hope for.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions and comments.