

3/9/22

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 9. Today, the House heard bills on 2nd Reading and had final vote on bills in 3rd Reading. Today was the last day for 2nd Reading on bills in the second house.

[SF0061](#) - Sage grouse game bird farms - no certification expiration-2, has been extensively debated but passed on 2nd Reading today with an amendment. The amendment extends the sunset date to provide this project for seven more years. As our sage grouse populations have continued to decline, this study is an attempt to avoid having sage grouse placed on the Endangered Species list. Efforts in this study include egg collections and raising and studying these birds in captivity. Past efforts to release sage grouse into the wild have been unsuccessful. The hope is that by giving this study an additional seven years, the bird farm will be able to achieve successful breeding of sage grouse. I remain unconvinced that this project will succeed where others have failed.

[SF0100](#) - Stalking amendments, also passed on second reading today. Wyoming takes crimes related to stalking very seriously. This additional measure further strengthens Wyoming law by adding digital stalking to the list of acts considered to be stalking. In this bill, stalking includes the use of any digital system used to surveil a person or to surveil a person's use of wireless activity without their knowledge or authorization.

After much discussion, [SF0081](#) - Clarification of existing state ownership of groundwater, did not pass the House on 3rd reading today. This bill would amend statutes to clarify that groundwater falling within the borders of Wyoming is the property of the state, similar to surface water. This bill would put into statute what the State believes the constitution says. However, there is some ambiguity in the constitution around the ownership of ground water. The lawyers in the House felt this proposed law would do nothing to clarify law, because these issues are constitutional, and the courts will decide. I voted for the bill, because I believe it would help clarify legislative intent on this issue.

[SF0102](#) - Second amendment protection act, passed the house in 3rd Reading today with my support. If you recall from an earlier press release, this bill prohibits Wyoming law enforcement

officers from enforcing federal mandates that infringe on Second Amendment rights guaranteed to us under the United States Constitution.

I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com) with questions and comments.