

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on February 21, the 29th day of the General Session of the 67th Legislature. We worked through Senate File bills on 3rd Reading, concurrence and Committee of the Whole.

[HB88](#) heard further discussion on 3rd Reading last Thursday. There was concern expressed that the bonus system as proposed needs to be revised to solve the problem most effectively. The Wildlife Taskforce I served on spent many hours studying and working on this topic, and a lot of good work went into developing a proposal. And while there is no perfect system, I don't believe this proposed bonus point system for bighorn sheep and moose was the most equitable for honoring hunters who have spent years and money accruing points. That is why I voted no on this bill. It failed to pass the House 22-40.

I will highlight two bills from today:

[SF0061 - Legislator per diem.](#) This bill changes the reimbursement rate for legislators from a flat rate to a variable rate as established by the United States general services administration for locations within Wyoming. The bill passed the House today with one amendment. The amendment allows members of the Legislature to opt out of receiving the increased reimbursement rate and stay at the flat rate. While I believe this amendment was unnecessary, as there is an opt-out process on the existing forms, I was pleased to see the bill pass the House. This legislative job costs money, and a legislator's meals and lodging should be covered. The bill will also apply to all of the state commissions and boards.

[SF0102 - Food Freedom Act-amendments.](#) This bill passed the House unanimously, allowing a producer to sell dairy products directly and allowing those who can already sell homemade food products to employ a designated agent for sales, marketing, transport, storage, and delivery of food or drink products. I was a co-sponsor on this bill and was pleased to see it pass, and expand the opportunities for Wyomingites to buy products from their neighbors.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or comments. Thank you.