

WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



March 7, 2017

General Legislative Session – Final Report

The 64th Legislature concluded its work late Friday evening, finishing on day 37 of what turned out to be a very contentious session. With the House pushing for tax increases and moderate cuts and the Senate pushing for just the opposite, the last-minute education funding show-down ended in a compromise with both sides arguably walking away with unfinished business that may necessitate a special session.

The Governor extended his appreciation to the citizen legislators for their passion and vision in working through the difficult and frustrating times this session for the common goal of ensuring that the state remains strong. Noting that there is business yet to be done, the Governor thanked them for coming together, as Republicans and Democrats, and getting the job done.

A lofty total of 484 bills were numbered for introduction this session. As of Monday at noon, a total of 142 bills had been signed into law by the Governor. Lawmakers will begin their interim committee work in the weeks ahead. Wyoming's Legislature will convene on Feb. 12, 2018 for a 20-day Budget Session.

The appropriations agreed upon by Joint Conference Committee (JCC01) for the 2017 supplemental budget amounted to \$279.4 million in net appropriation reductions in the General Fund, \$16.4 million in net appropriation reductions in Federal Funds, and net appropriation increases of \$142.1 million in Other Funds contingent upon other revenues and emergency actions. See below for details.

The Management Council's list of interim topics will not be available until later this week, or most likely next week.

Fiscal Profile for 2017-18, January 2017 CREG revenue forecast
SUBJECT TO GOVERNOR'S ACTION

Funds Available	17-18 Biennium JCC01 Status
Total Traditional Funds	<u>\$2,708,633,870</u>
Expenditures:	
2016 Budget Bill GF Appropriations	(\$2,981,180,894)
2017 Budget GF Appropriations	\$279,433,294
2017 Budget Bill GF Approps. - Governor's vetoes	(\$3,222,038)
Other 2016 Bills w/ GF Approps. - Budget Session	(\$187,071,613)
2017 Bills w/ GF Approps. - General Session	\$1,904,609
2016 Budget Bill - Interfund loan from 1% sev. tax	\$168,500,000
2016 Budget Bill - BRA Trans. from (to) LSRA	\$36,000,000
2017 5% Statutory Reserve from LSRA	\$56,552,772
Total Appropriations/Transfers	<u>(\$2,629,083,870)</u>
General Fund/BRA Balance	\$79,550,000
Less: Statutory Reserve (5% of GF revenues)	<u>(\$104,550,000)</u>
Total Traditional Funds Available for Appropriation	<u>(\$25,000,000)</u>

Source: Legislative Service Office, Fiscal Profile 3/6/2017

Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account	17-18 Biennium JCC01 w/Gov.'s Actions LSRA
	(\$36,000,000)
Ch. 111, '16 Sess. Laws - Local government distributions	(\$105,000,000)
Ch. 25, '16 Sess. Laws - School facilities appropriations-3	(\$80,000,000)
2017 Net Statutory Reserve to LSRA	(\$56,552,772)
2017 Title 25 and State Penitentiary emergency	(\$25,000,000)
2017 Excellence in higher education endowment reserve	(\$1,250,000)
HB 58 School facilities appropriations - transfer to School CapCon	\$1,675,922
HB 253 Economic development account funding	(\$25,000,000)
SF 132 ENDOW initiative	(\$2,500,000)
SF 156 State government efficiencies	(\$311,000)
Total	<u>(\$329,937,850)</u>

Source: Legislative Service Office, Fiscal Profile 3/6/2017

2017 Supplemental Budget Summary

This budget bill contains the following revised total appropriation:

General Fund Appropriations:	Net appropriation reductions of \$279.4 million, contingent upon other 2017 bills being enacted.
Federal Fund Appropriations:	Net appropriation reductions of \$16.4 million.
Other Fund Appropriations:	Net appropriation increases of \$142.1 million (<i>estimate</i>), contingent upon other revenues and emergency actions.

Employment: 7,678 Total Authorized Positions (7,367 full-time and 311 part-time), which reflects a net reduction of 167 positions (157 full-time and 10 part-time).

This bill contains the following revised appropriations, as compared to 2016 Laws, Ch. 31, for these major programs:

- **Game and Fish Commission** – Total decrease of \$5,920,286 GF, of which \$4,442,001 GF reduction is contingent upon HB 288 being enacted.
- **Department of Transportation (including WyoLink and airport improvements)** – Total decrease of \$11,243,407 GF.
- **Department of Health** – Total, net decrease of \$92,733,209 GF; \$38,810,328 FF; and net increase of \$1,934,458 OF.
- **Department of Family Services** – Total decrease of \$17,605,411 GF and net increases of \$2,658,870 FF and \$2,270,021 OF.
- **Community College Commission** – Total, net decrease of \$20,920,212 GF.
- **University of Wyoming** – Total decrease of \$43,196,677 GF.
- **Department of Corrections** – Total decrease of \$23,058,668 GF and a net increase of \$200,000 OF (one-time tobacco trust income funds).
- **K-12 Foundation Program** – Total, net increase of \$48,800,995 SFP. The increase in this agency was largely due to revisions to estimated local revenue and other revenue sources. Pursuant to footnote 3, payments to districts shall be reduced equally to reach a total statewide reduction of \$25,000,000 in school year 2018.

Various Provisions –

- The bill includes an appropriation from the LSRA to the Budget Reserve Account to provide for a statutory reserve amount of \$104.55 million reduced by any emergency, contingent appropriations for Title 25 expenditures or state penitentiary facility emergencies.
- The bill provides for a statewide position freeze and additional reduction of 90 full-time, generally funded positions, or like program savings.
- The bill provides for a K-12 education recalibration select committee.
- The bill provides for a \$10 million emergency appropriation from the LSRA for Title 25 costs and \$15 million emergency appropriation from the LSRA for facility emergencies at the state penitentiary, with conditions.

The following reports are required under the budget bill:

- The tribal liaisons and Governor's office shall report to the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) and Select Committee on Tribal Relations not later than November 1, 2017 on funds expended and the deliverables established in 2014.
- The State Treasurer shall report to the JAC and Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments on multiple measures regarding the internal investment team established in this act, including performance and costs, not later than December 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.
- Not later than November 15, 2017, the Livestock Board shall report to the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee on the number of incidents, closed and open investigations and successful prosecutions resulting from Livestock Board investigations for a specified time period.
- Not later than November 1, 2017, the Department of Workforce Services shall report to the Governor and JAC on budget reductions implemented, recommendations for further reductions, and anticipated impacts.
- The University of Wyoming (UW) shall report on a quarterly basis to the State Treasurer regarding matching funds for unconventional oil and gas reservoir research.
- UW, on behalf of the University, community colleges and commission, shall report progress on a unified plan for recruitment and retention to the Joint Education Committee and the JAC not later than September 30, 2017.
- UW shall report to the JAC regarding the findings, costs, impacts and mitigation actions regarding the need for vacating a portion of 15th Street on campus.
- The State Auditor shall report to the Governor and the JAC regarding the number of generally funded, full-time positions not later than May 15, 2017.
- The Governor shall report to JAC by June 30, 2017 and January 1, 2018 on the identification, by agency, of eliminated generally funded full-time positions.
- An independent peer review study under the direction of Management Council shall be submitted to JAC not later than July 1, 2017.
- A Select Committee on K-12 Education Recalibration shall report its recommendations and any associated legislation to the Legislature not later than January 31, 2018.
- The Department of Health shall report quarterly to JAC and the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee on expenditures made from the LSRA for Title 25, if expended.
- The Department of Corrections shall report quarterly to JAC on expenditures from the LSRA for the Wyoming State Penitentiary, if expended.

Governor's Line Item Veto

Governor Mead, in his letter to Speaker Harshman regarding his line item veto authority, opened by saying that while unprecedented, this supplemental budget is the third cut to the standard budget in 12 months. The Governor lamented that significantly reduced revenues experienced over the past year required immediate action to address Wyoming's budget. He reminded the Speaker of the \$249 million reduction he implemented last July. Mead lauded the efforts of both the executive and legislative branches in working together to assure necessary government services were adequately funded. Mead said in his opinion some of the cuts were too deep and could prohibit agencies from being able to for fill their statutory functions. As a result he vetoed several full agency budgets in the supplemental bill. Following are his vetoes and rationale:

Agency 009, Pipeline Authority: This agency received a \$92,692 cut effective July 1, 2016. An additional \$200,000 is reduced from the agency budget. The Pipeline Authority does not have any authorized to positions. All of the work is conducted through 900 series contracts. And additional reduction will render the agency unable to carry out its mission.

Agency 029, Water Development (WWDC): This agency is funded solely through Water I funds. The agency will be moving forward with significant water development projects across the state, and significant new demands. To assure progress on these projects, sufficient resources are required. Legislators have questioned the agency budget. I concur with the view that WWDC budgets should be subject to the same level of review as general fund agencies. I will continue to review the budget and expenditures, and work with the legislature on an appropriate budget.

Agency 080, Department of Corrections: This agency sustained reduction of \$14.8 million in the last legislative session. Executive branch reductions resulted in an additional \$21.7 million reduction. These actions included the elimination of 40 positions and the defunding of 92 positions. Reductions in funding and in positions have a significant impact on the mission of this agency, and specifically, on its public safety operations. I encourage the Legislature to undertake a full review of Department of Corrections staffing needs. Appropriate action to either decrease or increase agency funding can be taken in the next biennial budget. The risk posed by these cuts is too great without more information that can be obtained through the interim.

Agency 085, Wyoming Business Council: Under this budget, the agency has sustained a 37% budget reduction since I submitted the 2015–16 budget. The agency budget was reduced by \$14.5 million in the 2016 legislative session. Additional reductions, taken at my behest, on July 1, 2016, were \$4.2 million. These reductions have the greatest impact for local communities and on business development and recruitment. I

believe this is the wrong time to further reduce this budget when Wyoming should continue to invest in state and local economic development efforts strengthening communities and signaling our commitment to growth and economic diversity.

Section 320: I have also vetoed portions of Section 320 in the budget bill. I have vetoed the specific provisions in Section 320 that prohibit the filling of vacant positions during the remainder of this biennium. I believe this provision is unwarranted and may have intended consequences that cannot be determined ahead of time. I am further concerned that putting in place a "hard position freeze" will require considerable work on the part of state agencies – time better used serving the public. I have also vetoed the specific provisions contemplating elimination of up to 90 filled positions by the end of the biennium because of the uncertainty that creates for state employees and whether or not their job will be one of the 90 eliminated.

In addition, I have vetoed provisions that limit my flexibility in determining additional budget reductions that may be necessary. The budget I will develop over the coming months will by necessity take into account the revenue outlet for the coming biennium. I appreciate the guidance provided in section 320, and I believe the intent of reducing the 2019–2020 biennium budget by \$13.5 million will be better achieved by leaving maximum flexibility for the executive branch.

Other: I did not take action on the Department of Transportation budget. The budget bill reduces agency funds by \$9.572 million. An offset increasing drivers' license fees just passed and the other proposed offset increasing motor vehicle fees is still pending in a bill before the legislature. The law obligates me to act now even though one of the offset bills has not become an enrolled act.

The Department of Transportation is a critical public service and important to the safety of the traveling public. I recommended no cuts to the Department. The cuts and the proposed offset through increased fees are legislative initiatives. Full funding for the Department of Transportation remains a concern at this time – impossible for me to resolve by my work on the budget bill.

I also raise a concern about footnote 4, to Section 205 Education–School Finance. This footnote directs a \$20 million reduction to the school foundation budget for the 2019–2020 biennium. The school foundation budget is based on the statutory model. There is a proposed review of this model during the 2017 interim. It is not clear how this footnote will interact with the model, the review of the model, or school finance in general. Given the history of school funding this footnote is problematic.

WTA Bills of Interest This Session

Below is a summary of the bills the WTA was following this session. Also, see WTA's Bill Tracking Sheet for additional information on these bills.

HB11 – DISCOUNTED CASH FLOW IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS – This bill requires the Department of Revenue to study the legal and regulatory changes necessary to implement the use of discounted cash flow valuation for the ad valorem tax on oil and gas production by 2020. The bill requires the Department to provide periodic reports on the results of the study with a final report due November 30, 2019. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0085 on 03/01/2017, Signed by House Speaker on 03/01/2015 and Signed by Senate President on 03/01/2015. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB13 – INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS – This bill clarifies that a local government investing public funds is required to use the judgment and care of a prudent investor under the Wyoming Uniform Public Investor Act. The bill also specifies that any person a local government contracts with for the investment of public funds is required to act as a fiduciary with respect to the investment of public funds and is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of Wyoming. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0023 on 02/13/2017, Signed by House Speaker on 02/14/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/1/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 02/17/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB19 – SALES FROM REMOTE SELLERS – This bill provides that remote sellers are required to collect Wyoming sales tax if the seller has more than \$100,000 in Wyoming sales or has 200 or more separate Wyoming transactions. The bill specifies that the Department of Revenue may bring an action in this state to obtain a declaratory judgment regarding the obligation of a remote seller to remit sales tax and provides that there is an injunction against collection of the tax during the pendency of the declaratory judgment action. The bill also specifies that a remote seller who voluntarily remits the tax is not liable to any person who claims the sales tax has been over collected. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0041 on 02/21/2017, Signed by House Speaker on 02/22/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/23/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/1/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

HB79 – STATE FUNDS EQUITY INVESTMENTS POOL– This bill would create the statutory trust fund investment pool registered under the Investment Advisor's Act of 1940 that allows the state treasurer to invest up to 60% of the monies in each fund comprising the statutory trust fund investment pool in equities including stocks of corporations. It specifies the Wyoming Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account, Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, Wyoming Public Television Matching Fund, and Wyoming Game and Fish Fund are to be included in the pool. Allowing these non-permanent funds and accounts to invest in equities could increase their investment income on a long-term basis. The State Treasurer's Office (STO) cannot estimate the difference in investment revenues for each fiscal year.

Enrolled as HEA No. 0057 on 02/23/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/24/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/27/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/2/2017. Effective date: 03/2/2017. (WTA Position: Support)

HB82 – LOCAL OPTIONAL SALES AND USE TAXES – This bill clarifies that local governments may impose local optional taxes through separate ballot propositions up to the maximum amount authorized for those taxes. The bill also specifies the failure of a ballot proposition for a tax which is less than the maximum amount authorized for that tax will not affect a separate proposition which was previously enacted or which is sought for the remaining authorized amount of that tax. The bill applies to the following local optional taxes: the general purpose excise tax, the lodging excise tax, the specific purpose excise tax, the resort district excise tax and the economic development excise tax..

Enrolled as HEA No. 0039 on 02/21/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/22/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/23/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/2/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Support)

HB119 – SENIOR CITIZEN DISTRICTS-USE OF REVENUES- This bill would broaden the use of district revenues to senior citizen programs by including services specified as in-home services and socialization including the establishment, maintenance or expansion of programs or services administered through the aging division of the Wyoming department of health. No fiscal or personnel impact. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0113 on 03/2/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/2/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/3/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB218 – MOTOR VEHICLES-REGISTRATION FEES- This bill would increase the vehicle registration fees on passenger vehicles, school busses, motorcycles to \$25 from the current levels; and increase fees on house trailers and other non-commercial vehicles to between \$10-\$120 based on unladen weight from previous levels. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0121 on 03/3/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/3/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/3/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB219 – DRIVER'S LICENSES-FEES- This bill would increase the vehicle registration fees on passenger vehicles, school busses, motorcycles to \$25 from the current levels; and increase fees on house trailers and other non-commercial vehicles to between \$10-\$120 based on unladen weight from previous levels. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0111 on 03/2/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/2/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/3/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB220 – AD VALOREM TAXATION-LIENS ON MINERAL PRODUCTION- This bill provides that with respect to ad valorem tax liens, a delinquent taxpayer does not include an owner of a royalty interest, overriding royalty or other interest carved out of the mineral estate if the person who is producing the mineral and legally responsible for remitting ad valorem taxes, fees, penalties or interest on production withholds a portion of the royalty, overriding royalty or other interest carved out of the mineral estate for the purpose of remitting taxes, fees, penalties

or interest on behalf of the owner. The bill clarifies that an ad valorem tax lien will not attach to these interests. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0074 on 02/24/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/27/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/27/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/2/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB225 - SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDING – This bill would create a 14-member joint select committee on education funding to study and recommend solutions to the projected budget shortfall for education funding. This bill contains an appropriation of \$109,000 from the general fund to the Legislative Service Office and \$46,000 from the general fund to the Governor's Office. **Failed in Senate - No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 2/28/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

HB236 - SCHOOL FINANCE-OMNIBUS EDUCATION FUNDING – This is an omnibus bill that would address education funding through revisions of the existing education funding formula, including provision for additional revenue from the LSRA and sales and severance taxes, and transferring existing revenues. The bill also reduces the number of school days, creates an employee hiring freeze, reduces transportation funding, and salary reductions for administrative staff. This bill would also establish a joint select committee on education funding to examine options for use of savings, diversions of existing revenues, and permanent funding solutions for school capital construction and major maintenance. This bill contains a total appropriation of \$168,500 from the LSRA: \$46,000 to the Governor's Office and \$122,500 to the Legislative Service Office. **Enrolled as HEA No. 0125 on 03/3/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/3/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/3/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

SF9 - CERTIFICATION OF CASES TO STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – This bill authorizes a county board of equalization to request that a case be certified directly to the State Board of Equalization and provides rulemaking authority for the State Board of Equalization to accept direct certification of cases from county boards. The State Board of Equalization reviews appeals from decisions of county boards of equalization that adjudicate disputes between taxpayers and county assessors. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0008 on 02/14/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/14/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/15/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 02/21/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

SF10 - COUNTY BOARDS OF EQUALIZATION – This bill revises and repeals obsolete language related to the duties of county boards of equalization and conforms language to current practices. Additionally, it requires that county assessors provide a copy of their abstract of the assessment roll to county boards of equalization and provides that property owners may contact their county assessor about an increase in a property assessment. The bill updates statutory citations related to the appointment of deputy county assessors and repeals procedures regarding a county board of equalization's property assessment and valuation. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0009 on 02/14/2017 and**

Signed by Senate President on 02/14/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/15/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 02/21/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)

SF15 - SPECIAL DISTRICT BUDGET REQUIREMENTS – This bill repeals provisions in Chapter 12 and recreates them with new requirements for special districts and other specified entities. The bill creates an article for general provisions, an article recreating the provisions of the Special Districts Public Records and Meetings Act and an article with new requirements for the administration of budgets and finances. It also specifies when the new budget and finance requirements apply. In most cases, the requirements will apply to special districts and other specified entities that do not have budget or finance requirements in the statutes under which they are created. This bill provides requirements for how special districts prepare and adopt budgets, manage and expend funds and authorize emergency expenditures. It also provides requirements for how special districts and other entities conduct budget hearings, and amends certain filing requirements for special districts and other entities. Some budget documents must now be filed with the county clerks, as opposed to the county commissioners. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0036 on 02/23/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/23/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/24/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/1/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

SF16 - SPECIAL DISTRICTS ELECTIONS – This bill revises election requirements for certain special districts, including: amending the Special Districts Elections Act of 1994 to specify that its provisions apply to county commissioner fire protection districts; amending the formation statutes for hospital districts to specify that hospital districts may be formed according to the provisions of the Special Districts Elections Act of 1994; amending notification requirements for a board of county commissioners voting on a resolution to create a new fire protection district; and allowing new fire protection districts to be initially formed with either three or five directors, depending on the size of the district. It also provides for staggered elections of directors and allows the district board to determine how directors will be apportioned and elected in the district. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0040 on 02/24/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/27/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/27/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 03/2/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

SF18 - SPECIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC RECORDS-BOCES – This bill amends the Special Districts Public Records and Meetings Act by removing boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) from the list of special districts to which the Act is applicable. The effect of this amendment will be to exempt BOCES from certain special district reporting requirements made to the Department of Audit. The removal of BOCES from these reporting requirements is consistent with the treatment of other education-related special districts. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0014 on 02/15/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/15/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/16/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 02/21/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

SF23 - FUEL TAX APPEALS – This bill provides that fuel tax appeals will be made to the State Board of Equalization. Fuel taxes are administered by the Department of Transportation, so the appeals were not designated to be made to the State Board of Equalization. Prior to this bill, the State Board of Equalization was designated to hear appeals of taxes administered by the Department of Revenue. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0003 on 02/13/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/13/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/14/2017. Signed into law by Governor on 02/21/2017. Effective date: 07/1/2017. (WTA Position: Monitor)**

SF46 - APPEALS BY COUNTY ASSESSOR – This bill would authorize the county assessor to appeal any decision of the state board of equalization related to locally assessed property to the district court in the county in which the property is situated. **Failed in House Committee of the Whole on 02/28/17. (WTA Position: Oppose)**

SF70 - MANUFACTURING MACHINERY EXEMPTION SUNSET DATE – This bill extends the sunset date for the manufacturing machinery sales and use tax exemption. The exemption was scheduled to sunset December 31, 2017. This bill changes the sunset date to December 31, 2027. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0080 on 03/02/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/02/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/03/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

SF156 - STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES – This bill creates the Wyoming Spending and Government Efficiency Commission to review topics related to efficiencies in Wyoming state government. The bill establishes the membership of the Commission, which cannot exceed six members. Additionally, it requires the Commission to review and report on the current configuration of Wyoming state government and to identify: opportunities to increase efficiencies and reduce costs, areas for future study, opportunities to incentivize efficiencies and opportunities for savings in the Medicaid program. The bill appropriates funds for the payment of Commission member expenses and to secure contracting to implement and realize cost savings and efficiencies. **Enrolled as SEA No. 0091 on 03/03/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 03/03/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 03/03/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

SJ2 - FEDERAL LAND WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY REVENUE-STATE SHARE - This resolution requests Congress to enact legislation providing for the payment of fifty percent of the rents and fees the federal government receives from wind and solar energy developments on federal land to the state in which the developments are located. Federal law provides for the payment of fifty percent of the royalties and rents the federal government receives from the production of certain fossil fuels and geothermal energy on federal land to the state in which the production occurs. **Enrolled as SEJR No. 0001 on 02/16/2017 and Signed by Senate President on 02/21/2017 and Signed by House Speaker on 02/22/2017. (WTA Position: Support)**

WTA Toast and Taxes

The Toast and Taxes weekly breakfasts at the Jonah Center were extremely well-attended and provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss policy with legislators and WTA members. This year, we were host to 36 legislators listed below.

- Representative Tom Walters, HD38 (Natrona)
- Representative Dan Kirkbride, HD4 (Platte/Converse)
- Senator Larry Hicks, SD11 (Albany/Carbon/Sweetwater)
- Representative Don Burkhardt, HD15 (Carbon)
- Representative Bill Pownall, H52, (Campbell)
- Representative Lloyd Larsen, HD54, (Fremont)
- Representative Jim Allen, HD33 (Fremont)
- Representative Roy Edwards, HD53 (Campbell)
- Senator Cale Case, SD25 (Fremont)
- Senator Paul Barnard, SD15 (Uinta)
- Representative Danny Eyre, H19 (Uinta)
- Senator Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, SD12 (Sweetwater)
- Senator Dave Kinskey, SD22 (Sheridan/Johnson)
- Senator Jeff Wasserburger, S23 (Campbell/Converse)
- Representative John Freeman, H60 (Sweetwater)
- Representative Tyler Lindholm, H01 (Crook/Weston)
- Senator Fred Emerich, S05 (Laramie)
- Representative Eric Barlow, H03 (Campbell/Converse)
- Representative Dan Zwontitzer, (H43 Laramie)
- Representative Mike Madden, H40 (Johnson/Sheridan)
- Senator John Hastert, S13 (Sweetwater)
- Representative Bob Nicholas, H08 (Laramie)
- Senator Eli Bebout, S26 (Fremont)
- Representative Mark Jennings, H30 (Sheridan)
- Representative Jim Byrd, (H44 Laramie)
- Representative Nathan Winters, H28 (Big Horn/Hot Springs/Fremont/Park)
- Representative Charles Pelkey, H45 (Albany)
- Representative Jim Blackburn, H42 (Laramie)
- Representative Bill Henderson, H41 (Laramie)
- Representative Jamie Flitner, H26 (Big Horn/Park)
- Representative Dave Miller, H55 (Fremont)
- Senator Ogden Driskill, S01 (Crook/Campbell/Weston)
- Senator Curt Meier, S03 (Goshen/Niobrara/Weston)
- Representative Mark Kinner, H29 (Sheridan)
- Representative Garry Piiparinen, H49 (Uinta)
- Representative Mark Greear, H27 (Big Horn/Washakie)

Basin Electric, Cloud Peak Energy, and the Wyoming Liberty Group were the sponsors for this year's events and we sincerely thank them.

List of Bills Signed Into Law (as of Tuesday, March 7, 2017)

Bill	Catch Title	Enrolled	Chapter
HB0001	General government appropriations.	HEA0082	CH0120 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
HB0002	Storage tanks.	HEA0026	CH0035 02/17/2017 07/01/2017

HB0003	Cease and transfer priority list.	HEA0024	CH0032 02/17/2017 02/17/2017
HB0004	NRC agreement state amendments.	HEA0018	CH0027 02/17/2017 02/17/2017
HB0006	Principle based reserving.	HEA0033	CH0067 03/01/2017 03/01/2017
HB0007	Credit for reinsurance.	HEA0021	CH0029 02/17/2017 07/01/2017
HB0008	Student data privacy, security and transparency.	HEA0014	CH0014 02/16/2017 02/16/2017
HB0009	Student ownership and privacy rights.	HEA0027	CH0036 02/17/2017 07/01/2017
HB0013	Investment of public funds.	HEA0023	CH0033 02/17/2017 07/01/2017
HB0014	Insurance Code-amendments.	HEA0015	CH0015 02/16/2017 07/01/2017
HB0016	Small claims appearance fee.	HEA0001	CH0002 02/13/2017 07/01/2017
HB0017	Adult protective orders-time limit extension.	HEA0002	CH0001 02/13/2017 07/01/2017
HB0018	Child abuse or neglect in military families.	HEA0003	CH0003 02/13/2017 07/01/2017
HB0019	Sales from remote sellers.	HEA0041	CH0085 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0020	Honor and remember flag.	HEA0081	CH0135 03/03/2017 07/01/2017
HB0021	Secretary of state-certificates of authentication.	HEA0031	CH0040 02/17/2017 02/17/2017
HB0023	Secretary of state's office-amendments.	HEA0048	CH0086 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0024	Water commission duties.	HEA0025	CH0034 02/17/2017 02/17/2017
HB0025	Dry bean commission member terms.	HEA0004	CH0004 02/13/2017 02/13/2017
HB0026	Bark beetle-program funding.	HEA0051	CH0087 03/01/2017 03/01/2017
HB0028	Approved depositories for public funds.	HEA0066	CH0098 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
HB0030	State parks and sites-fees.	HEA0012	CH0012 02/16/2017 02/16/2017
HB0033	Nonresident motorboats-gasoline tax distribution.	HEA0008	CH0007 02/14/2017 07/01/2017
HB0035	Sponsorship of legislation.	HEA0034	CH0068 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0036	Obsolete laws.	HEA0032	CH0041 02/17/2017 07/01/2017
HB0038	School finance-interfund borrowing.	HEA0040	CH0074 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0039	Education-resident tuition reimbursement.	HEA0022	CH0031 02/17/2017 02/17/2017
HB0040	Education accountability.	HEA0061	CH0095 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
HB0041	Court ordered placements-age restrictions.	HEA0058	CH0092 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0042	Education-state board of education membership.	HEA0007	CH0008 02/14/2017 07/01/2017
HB0043	Board of insurance examiners-repeal.	HEA0009	CH0009 02/14/2017 07/01/2017
HB0044	Board of professional engineers and land surveyors.	HEA0047	CH0076 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0045	Judicial branch budget processes.	HEA0016	CH0016 02/16/2017 07/01/2017
HB0047	Water rights procedures.	HEA0067	CH0099 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0051	Borrowing authority for department of transportation.	HEA0013	CH0013 02/16/2017 07/01/2018
HB0056	Mobile homes-title status upon permanent foundation.	HEA0062	CH0112 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
HB0059	Higher education fiscal procedure amendments.	HEA0010	CH0010 02/14/2017 07/01/2017
HB0060	State investment policy.	HEA0035	CH0069 03/01/2017 03/01/2017
HB0061	Collection of antlers and horns.	HEA0068	CH0116 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0065	Public safety communications reorganization.	HEA0017	CH0017 02/16/2017 02/16/2017
HB0070	Occupational safety and health administration actions.	HEA0036	CH0072 03/01/2017 03/01/2017
HB0071	Unemployment insurance-electronic communications.	HEA0006	CH0006 02/13/2017 03/13/2017
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HB0079	State funds equity investments pool.	HEA0057	CH0091 03/02/2017 03/02/2017

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HB0082	Local optional sales and use taxes.	HEA0039	CH0073 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0083	Health care facility licensing/bed count limit-exemption.	HEA0005	CH0005 02/13/2017 02/13/2017
HB0084	Worker's compensation-delinquent employers.	HEA0069	CH0100 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0086	Omnibus water bill-construction.	HEA0042	CH0075 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
HB0087	Return of victim's property held as evidence.	HEA0070	CH0101 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0088	Background checks-enterprise technology services.	HEA0080	CH0129 03/03/2017 03/03/2017
HB0090	Concealed weapons-military family applicants.	HEA0056	CH0114 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
HB0092	Payment of wages upon termination-time limits.	HEA0011	CH0011 02/14/2017 02/14/2017
HB0098	LLC-dissolution distributions.	HEA0059	CH0093 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
HB0111	County collective accounts.	HEA0052	CH0089 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
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HB0121	Fishing licenses.	HEA0071	CH0119 03/02/2017 07/01/2018
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HB0139	School finance-court ordered placement.	HEA0054	CH0094 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
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HB0156	Involuntary commitment-emergency detention amendments.	HEA0064	CH0096 03/02/2017 03/02/2017
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HB0163	Elections-recount deposits.	HEA0044	CH0077 03/01/2017 07/01/2017
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HB0171	Unemployment insurance-delinquency contributions.	HEA0072	CH0102 03/02/2017 07/01/2017
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