



**June 11, 2020**

Dear Members of the 65th Wyoming Legislature,

Thank you for participating in and timely responding to our ballot yesterday. You have confirmed what we thought, that the committee work to date has not resulted in additional COVID-related bills that require legislative action prior to July 15. We appreciate your willingness to roll up your sleeves and do a lot of committee work in the last 4 weeks. The lack of emergent issues in the work that you have done, lack of any additional action from the federal government since March, *and* how well the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislature did its job during the May special session have made a follow up special session in late June unnecessary. We hope that you have taken pride in the yeoman's work we did allocating CARES Act Funds supporting businesses, local governments, healthcare institutions, and others impacted by this crisis. We are confident the Governor will implement our legislative directives addressing the needs of the State without the Legislature meeting in the near term.

We all understand there is still a lot of work to be done. It is crucial our interim committees monitor how the remaining \$900 million in CARES funds is distributed and analyze real impacts of outgoing distributions to ensure funds are truly serving those most in need. If federal guidance changes on how funds may be used, or if additional financial stimulus is authorized, we may need to act quickly to direct the how remaining funds are allocated. Committees and members should remain flexible to address any future challenges as they arise throughout this interim.

We thought 2016 was the biggest fiscal shock we had ever seen. We cut over ½ billion dollars then and this event is 3 to 4 times greater. We are facing the greatest fiscal challenge in our State's history. Our 50-year foundation of coal is being destroyed every month, natural gas prices are in the tank and oil is doing its normal up and downs. The next few months should provide a clearer picture of the COVID crisis and the collapse of energy prices and their combined effect on the long-term prognosis for Wyoming's economy. As we monitor our economy, we will know more in the coming weeks regarding our \$1 billion dollar general fund deficit and our \$500 million K-12 school deficit. We have many challenges, but we are also blessed in that Wyoming has savings, her people are resourceful and resilient, and we have low taxes.

---

WYOMING LEGISLATURE • 200 W. 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 213 • CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002  
TELEPHONE (307)777-7881 • FAX (307)777-5466 • E-MAIL LSO@WYOLEG.GOV • WEB SITE WWW.WYLOEG.GOV

Please feel free to contact us at any time as we all continue to serve the people of the State throughout this continuing crisis.

Best Regards,



---

Senator Drew Perkins  
President, Wyoming Senate



---

Representative Steve Harshman  
Speaker, Wyoming House of Representatives

---

WYOMING LEGISLATURE • 200 W. 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 213 • CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002  
TELEPHONE (307)777-7881 • FAX (307)777-5466 • E-MAIL LSO@WYOLEG.GOV • WEB SITE WWW.WYLOEG.GOV