

News Release



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 3

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STATE SENATE FINISHES INTRODUCING BILLS

CHEYENNE – As of Friday February 14, Senator Cheri Steinmetz (R-Lingle), representing District 3, presented all three of her bills – Senate File 97: Born Alive- Infant Means of Care, and Senate File 99: Mineral Royalty Grant and Loan Qualification and SF110 Evaluating the Tax Equivalency of Federal Land in Wyoming all passed introduction and will move on to committee in the coming week. Friday was the deadline for bills to be introduced during the 2020 Budget Session.

“Senate File 97 is a bill that would require that doctors give care to infants born alive by surviving an abortion,” Sen. Steinmetz explained. “This bill passed quite handily by a vote of 22 for 7 against.”

“Senate File 99, Mineral Royalty Grant and Loan Qualification, is a bill I brought to add irrigation districts to the list of special districts eligible to receive funding under the Mineral Royalty Grant,” she said. “This grant is administered by the State Land and Investment Board, which consists of the top-five elected officials in the state. It is designed to free up their hands when an emergency occurs.” This bill passed 29 for 1 excused.

Senator Steinmetz presented SF110 Evaluating the Tax Equivalency of Federal Land in Wyoming, which would create a real-time land appraisal system enabling the State of Wyoming to appraise and evaluate federal lands in order to estimate tax equivalency of lands controlled by the federal government within the state. The Senator facilitated meetings between Ken Ivory, former legislator who authored similar legislation in Utah, with fellow legislators, county commissioners, and the media. The legislation passed introduction on Thursday by unanimous consent.

“We have another emergency irrigation funding bill, House Bill 81: Emergency Water Projects Account sponsored by the Select Water Committee. It creates an irrigation district fund to be used specifically for emergencies,” Sen. Steinmetz said. “There is an

appropriation of \$5 million from the general fund with a cap of \$10 million, Carey Act funds would flow into the emergency account until it reaches \$10 million. These bills make great strides towards restoring peace of mind to irrigation districts across the state who are acutely aware of the challenges aging infrastructure brings.”

Sen. Steinmetz added she was pleased to see the governor honor Goshen Irrigation District’s Rob Posten this week during the State of the State address. “When we face emergencies, like that of the tunnel collapse, all of Wyoming unites behind those affected. We have a great State filled with great people.” Steinmetz said.

Thursday, Sen. Steinmetz attended the House Ag Committee and saw House Bill 81 move forward.

“We were also able to amend the OMNIBUS Water Construction bill to add \$200,000 for Goshen Irrigation District planning and design related to the permanent repair of Tunnels 1 and 2.”

“Wednesday, many of the gun bills were heard on the floor of both the House and the Senate, starting with Senate File 80: Hand-Gun Purchases, which requires a three-day waiting period for gun purchases,” Sen. Steinmetz said. “This bill failed on introduction vote in the Senate. Senate File 88: Repeal of Gun-Free Zones, which would have repealed gun-free zones across the state, also failed in the Senate. House Bill 118: Second Amendment Preservation Act, actually passed the House and is headed to committee. This bill prohibits certain actions as infringing on the right to keep and bear arms. We’ll be watching this bill – of which I’m a co-sponsor – and see how it does on the House side, and hopefully we’ll get it over to the Senate.”

“In Ag States Public Lands and Water Resources Committee, we have Senate File 33 Extension agents. This legislation would give county commissioners the ability to approve or deny applicants for extension agent positions,” Sen. Steinmetz said. “Senate File 41: Animal Damage Management Funding would increase damage management funding for predatory animals damaging livestock. Senate File 0081: Livestock Brand Administration has to do with the permanent brands we adopted last Legislative Session and getting some of the bugs out within the Livestock Board system.”

Sen. Steinmetz concluded her report by adding public comment and involvement is always appreciated.

About Senator Cheri Steinmetz:

Sen. Steinmetz represents Goshen, Niobrara, and Weston counties. She is a member of the following Senate committees: Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources; Transportation, Highways, & Military Affairs; and the Select Committee on Legislative Facilities, Technology and Process. She began serving in the Wyoming State Senate in 2019. Previously, Sen. Steinmetz represented House District 5 from 2015 to 2018. More information may be found at wyoleg.gov.

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