



WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION

Water is Wyoming's Gold

P.O. Box 1226 • Saratoga, WY 82331

Telephone: (307) 706-1377

E-mail: radona@wyomingwater.org • Website: www.wyomingwater.org

TO: Members of the Wyoming Legislature

FROM: Wyoming Water Association

SUBJECT: HB 47, SF 39, SF 42, SF 69

DATE: January 16, 2019

I am writing on behalf of the Wyoming Water Association (WWA) in response to several pieces of proposed legislation that are of concern to our association.

Founded in 1933, the Wyoming Water Association (WWA) is a non-profit corporation and is our only statewide water resources association. We are a voluntary organization of private citizens, elected officials, and representatives of business, government agencies, industry and water user groups and districts. The Board of Directors presently consists of representatives with four members from each of the following five areas: Agriculture; Industry, Business and Education; Recreation, and Conservation; Labor and Civic; and Local Government. The Wyoming Water Association's Board of Directors took these positions in accordance with the WWA's 2019 *Statement In Support of Objectives and Resolutions* adopted by our membership.

HB0047: Senate confirmation of water compact commissioners.

The WWA does not support this bill.

Requiring senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointees of interstate water commissioners is unnecessary.

The current process for appointments is valid and acceptable.

SF0039: Legislative approval of water compact amendments.

The WWA does not support this bill because it is unnecessary and is not applicable to the method or process to amend or alter any negotiated interstate water compact.

This bill is not necessary because changes to compacts already require legislative approval. Neither the State Engineer, nor the State of Wyoming, can unilaterally modify Compact language.

Any modification to a water compact requires legislative action by all participating states and approval of congress.

SF0042: Water division superintendents.

The WWA does not support this bill.

Requiring senate approval of water division superintendents is unnecessary for the efficient regulation of Wyoming's water. Current processes and procedures ensure water division superintendents and the State Engineers Office operate in a legal and equitable manner.

SF0069: Water development program.

The WWA does not support this bill.

The Wyoming Water Development Commission has an established policy for qualifying an eligible entity for funding under the water development program. The policy works well and ensures that state funding for infrastructure is properly applied and the projects are maintained.

The proposed legislation is too broad and could qualify entities not traditionally involved with water development access to funding.

Thank you for your consideration of the WWA's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Towe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory Towe
WWA President