

WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



Friday, March 26, 2021

66th Wyoming State Legislature
200 W 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Interim Topics

Dear 66th State Legislature Leadership & Chairmen,

Since 1937, the Wyoming Taxpayers Association (WTA) has been educating and informing its members and the public about sound fiscal policy; providing state and local policymakers with unbiased analysis of public expenditures and taxation; and promoting efficient and effective government through a wide dissemination of reports and analysis. WTA members represent a broad spectrum of Wyoming's economy including, but not limited to farmers, ranchers, mineral producers, pipelines, banks, railroads, hotels and motels, transportation companies, and of course, the individual taxpayer. Everything we do centers around our mission of **advocating sound tax policy for a healthy Wyoming economy.**

With this in mind, I have compiled a few recommendations of topics for the 2021 interim schedule:

- Review of Wyoming's tax structure and utilizing the findings from Wyoming Tax Reform 2000. I have attached WTA's executive summary of *A Twenty-Year Review of Tax Reform 2000* for quick reference.
- Review of tangible personal property valuation. *HB 0146 Personal property depreciation* and *SF 0085 Property tax – reporting and exemption* sparked discussion of the administrative burden and the inconsistent valuation of tangible personal property. We are recommending reviewing valuation on tangible personal property, so it is equitable across counties and does not exceed fair market value. Each county uses a slightly different method to value tangible personal property as some use effective age, some use replacement costs, while others use the historic value and trending. The use of various methods makes it confusing for the taxpayer and unequitable between the different counties in Wyoming. Additionally, the trending table goes out for 100 years. The American Society of Appraisers suggest using caution with using trended values past 10 years. I have attached *Wyoming vs. Mississippi Trending Graph* that compares the valuation of property and the disparity of those values.
- Review of the 2018 Government Efficiency Commission findings and consider policy recommendations. Additionally, consider policies that would streamline efficiencies that increase transparency in government finances. I have attached WTA's *Spending Policy* for reference.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing to provide evaluation of tax proposals based on the WTA *Cornerstones of Taxation* and research products on expenditures consistent with our *Spending Policy* to achieve prosperity for Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Ashley Harpstreith
Wyoming Taxpayers Association
Executive Director

CC:

President of the Senate Dan Dockstader
Senate Majority Floor Leader Ogden Driskell
Senate Vice President Larry Hicks
Senate Minority Floor Leader Chris Rothfuss
Senate Minority Whip Mike Gierau
House Speaker Eric Barlow
House Majority Floor Leader Albert Sommers
House Speaker Pro Tempore Mike Greear
House Majority Whip Jared Olsen
House Minority Floor Leader Cathy Connolly
House Minority Whip Andi Clifford
Senate Revenue Committee Chairman Cale Case
House Revenue Chairman Steve Harshman
Senate Appropriations Chairman Drew Perkins
House Appropriations Chairman Bob Nicholas

Attachments:

A Twenty-Year Review of Tax Reform 2000
Wyoming vs. Mississippi Trending Graph
WTA Spending Policy
WTA Cornerstones of Taxation