

# SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS



## BROADBAND TASK FORCE

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### COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

June 16, 2020 | 8:30 a.m.

Online Only

The meeting was held remotely due to the Covid-19 health emergency.  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Albert Sommers, Chairman  
Senator Dan Dockstader  
Senator Bill Landen  
Senator Michael Von Flatern  
Representative Steve Harshman  
Representative Tyler Lindholm  
Canyon Hardesty  
Barbara Sessions

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Lauren Schoenfeld

### OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Senator Jeff Wasserburger  
Representative Mike Yin

### LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Brian Fuller, Staff Attorney  
Jonathan Sandoval, Associate Program Evaluator

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Broadband Task Force met for one day online to discuss two bill drafts related to broadband development and broadband support. The Task Force received public comment on the two bill drafts. The Task Force adopted revisions to the drafts for further discussion at a subsequent meeting and developed recommendations for the governor for broadband programs to be implemented this year.

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sommers called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to **Appendix 1-01** to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

## CONSIDERATION OF BILL DRAFTS

### ***Overview of 20LSO-0731, Broadband Development***

Brian Fuller, Staff Attorney, provided an overview of 20LSO-0731, Broadband development (**Appendix 2-01**), which would establish a rapid broadband deployment reimbursement program, and described changes to this version of the bill draft.

### ***Public Comment***

Liz Zerga, Wyoming Telecommunications Association, suggested amendments to the bill draft regarding the posting of applications for grants and timeline for objections, mapping shapefiles, and expansions of existing projects.

Jody Levin, Charter Communications, suggested changes to the bill draft concerning the infrastructure definition and latency requirements.

Brett Glass, Owner/Operator, LARIAT, expressed concerns with the bills potentially excluding small providers and encouraged the Task Force to make sure that terrestrial wireless providers were included. Mr. Glass also discussed potential changes regarding latency, wireless technology, the application process, and speed requirements.

Eric Boley, President, Wyoming Hospital Association, expressed his support for the expansion of broadband services and discussed the need for expanding telehealth services and options in Wyoming.

Senator Landen moved the bill draft for consideration. The Task Force took no action on that motion. Chairman Sommers moved to have the bill draft be part of a set of recommendations on broadband projects to be sent to the governor for his consideration. That motion passed by a show of hands. The Task Force adopted the amendments to 20LSO-0731 as listed in **Appendix 2-03** to be included in the bill draft for further consideration at a future meeting.

### ***Overview of 20LSO-0737, State Broadband Support***

Mr. Fuller provided an overview of 20LSO-0737 (**Appendix 2-02**), a bill concerning various amendments to existing statutes and new programs for state broadband support.

### ***Public Comment***

Ms. Zerga expressed opposition to the changes concerning the Wyoming Unified Network. She also proposed amendments concerning the dig-once policy and WyoLink programs in the bill draft.

Jack Walkenhorst, Director of Strategic Partnerships, All West Communications, discussed the bill draft and expressed concerns regarding the changes to access to the Unified Network.

Tobi Johansen, President, Wyoming Telecommunications Association, described concerns with the Unified Network changes and how they may negate private investment in broadband development. Mr. Johansen encouraged the Task Force to focus on development for unserved areas.

Jason Hendricks, Chief Government Relations Officer, Range Companies, expressed concerns with the Unified Network changes and encouraged the Task Force to focus on private solutions for specific needs.

Aaron Sopko, Vice President/General Manager, ACT, gave an overview of his company's operations concerning healthcare providers and investments his company made toward telehealth.

Ms. Levin expressed concerns with the Unified Network language and proposed amendments to the draft concerning latency requirements and changes to WYDOT's infrastructure leasing provisions.

Mr. Glass expressed interest in the changes for WYDOT's infrastructure leasing provisions and discussed concerns with state competition in broadband. He also expressed support for language that would authorize peering connections between broadband providers and the state's and University of Wyoming's network.

Mr. Boley discussed the potential for Unified Network access and the importance to include physicians' clinics as eligible entities. Mr. Boley also described internet costs for healthcare providers and proposed amendments regarding using telehealth instead of telemedicine in the bill draft.

Shawn Taylor, Executive Director, Wyoming Rural Electric Association, provided an overview of easements for electric utilities and opening those up for broadband providers to access utility poles.

Representative Harshman moved that the Task Force consider 20LSO-0737. The Task Force took no action on this motion. The Task Force adopted the amendments in **Appendix 2-04** to be included in the bill draft for further consideration at a subsequent meeting.

After discussion, the Task Force directed that the WyoLink projects, the dig-once policy (requiring installation of broadband infrastructure when highways are constructed or rebuilt), and a requirement for the Department of Transportation to seek a blanket easement from the federal government for rights-of-way on public roads through federal lands be included in the recommendations to the governor. The Task Force also included a request for installing Wi-Fi on school buses to be part of the recommendations.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Sommers adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Albert Sommers, Chairman

# Committee Meeting Materials Index

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Index Number	Agenda Item	Document Description	Document Provider
1-01		Agenda	LSO
2-01	Consideration of Bill Drafts	20LSO-0731 v0.8 Broadband development.	LSO
2-02	Consideration of Bill Drafts	20LSO-0737 v0.5 State broadband support.	LSO
2-03	Consideration of Bill Drafts	Adopted Amendments to 20LSO-0731	LSO
2-04	Consideration of Bill Drafts	Adopted Amendments to 20LSO-0737	LSO