From:	Paul Vogelheim
To:	aaronanderson@washakiecounty.net; Barbara Allen; bnovotny@johnsoncowy.us; brolston@sheridancounty.com; bhall@parkcounty.us; crupp@goshencounty.org; craigwelling@yahoo.com; dthompsonone@hotmail.com; felix.carrizales@bhcounty.com; jharmon@lcwy.org; jim.willox@conversecountywy.gov; eastforklive@wildblue.net; john.lumley@hscounty.com; lindaf@crookcounty.wy.gov; lindyglode@carbonwy.com; adpro@vcn.com; GMA01@ccgov.net; nfsupply59@gmail.com; rob hendry; rhendry@natronacounty-wy.gov; skontour@plattecountywyoming.com; tsullivan@co.albany.wy.us; Troy Thompson; shoemakers@sweet.wy.us
Cc:	Pete Obermueller; Kelli Little; County Commissioners
Subject:	Recommend Legislation from the Task Force on Special Districts
Date:	Thursday, September 15, 2016 9:46:00 AM
Attachments:	Draft Final Report(3).docx

Good morning WCCA Board Members:
Thank you for the opportunity to represent Wyomimg's County Commissioners on the Task Force--looking at Special Districts. We had a very short time line and a huge project to tackle, but I feel we have four strong bills, which we are recommending to the Joint Corporations Committee today. While not perfect, as compromise was required, these bills will help deliver greater clarity, oversight, and transparency. Plus, a huge by-product will be the education and increased awareness for our commissioners of existing state statues which grant us power and oversight regarding special districts.

I wanted to applaud Pete Obermueller, as his involvement in this process was critical. Early on he asked for feedback from our WCCA membership on this issue; he coached me with constant communications along the way; he testified at our meetings; and when the Task Force got stuck, he was asked to jump onto a subcommittee to "fine-tune" our bills. He earned a lot of respect from the Task Force as he was constantly asked for advice and help.

Rumor has it that there is a lot of noise out there regarding our work on Special Districts. Here are a few key points regarding proposed legislation; attached is the "draft" final report being presented today; and a note of support to Joint Corporations from Bill Novotny. Thanks Bill and other commissioners for attending these task force meetings.

Key Points of Proposed Legislation:

1. 17LSO-0110 – Special district budget requirements. This bill creates new requirements to help standardize the special district budgeting process. The bill attempts to clarify ambiguity and provides a uniform procedure for all special districts formed under principal acts which are silent on budget requirements. It sets requirements for the contents of budgets and timelines for budget filing and hearings. Many of the provisions for budget requirements are modeled on provisions from the Uniform Municipal Fiscal Procedures Act. The bill also restructures Title 16, Chapter 12 to accommodate additional articles related to special districts.

2. 17LSO-0130 – Special districts-dissolution by commissioners. This bill will allow county commissioners to initiate the dissolution process of the Special District Elections Act for special districts that fail to comply with statutory requirements of the Special Districts Elections Act or Title 16, Chapter 12, if the commissioners determine it is in the best interest of the district. The process would require voter approval prior to the district being dissolved.

3. 17LSO-0134 – Special districts elections. This bill amends the elections laws of specified special districts elections laws to create more uniformity between different types of district elections and allows fire protection districts to be initially formed with five member boards if the district meets certain size requirements.

4. 17LSO-0159 - Special district applicability-boces. This bill removes boards of cooperative educational services from the list of special districts in W.S. 16-12-103(a). Boards of cooperative educational services would no longer be required to

comply with certain special district reporting requirements.

Please feel free to call me with any questions, thoughts or concerns.
Thanks for your service,
Paul

Paul Vogelheim
Teton County Commissioner
Pd@vogelheim.com
307.690.7455

From: Bill Novotny [mailto:bnovotny@johnsoncowy.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Cale.Case@wyoleg.gov; Larry.Hicks@wyoleg.gov; Curt.Meier@wyoleg.gov; Stephan.Pappas@wyoleg.gov; Charles.Scott@wyoleg.gov; dan.zwonitzer@wyoleg.gov; Jim.Blackburn@wyoleg.gov; james.byrd@wyoleg.gov; Roy.Edwards@wyoleg.gov; gerald.gay@wyoleg.gov; Mark.Jennings@wyoleg.gov; Dan.Kirkbride@wyoleg.gov; Tyler.Lindholm@wyoleg.gov; Jerry.Paxton@wyoleg.gov
Cc: Pete Obermueller; llgreeno@johnsoncowy.us; 'Jim Hicks'; 'Sheila Newcomb'
Subject: Recommend Legislation from the Task Force on Special Districts

Dear Co-Chairman Case and Zwonitzer and Members of the Joint Corporations Committee:

We applaud the work of the Task Force on Special Districts and the three bills that have been forwarded to the Joint Corporations Committee for your consideration tomorrow. We regret we are unable to attend the meeting in Saratoga and offer testimony in support of these legislative fixes to state statute regarding Special Districts, but we have a Board of Equalization Hearing scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

High county valuations facilitated by oil and gas production in Johnson County have filled the reserve and operating accounts of Special Districts in Johnson County. Yet even before we were blessed with mineral revenue, concerns over the operation of several Special Districts have existed. Questionable meeting practices, invalid and possibly illegal contracts, failure to meet fiduciary responsibilities, excessive and unnecessary real estate transactions, among a host of other concerns have arisen in the past several years.

We have testified at three of the task force's hearings in an effort to encourage legislation, changes to W.S. 22-29-401 in particular, which would provide a tool for County Commissioners to deal with Special Districts which may be violating state law. Our main concern rests with Special Districts that receive a mill levy set by the County Commissioners. We believe we become complicit and share liability when we vote to approve those mill levies. We do appreciate the work of the task force to carve out certain types of Special Districts that were inadvertently brought into this discussion. We also understand the concern of some Special Districts who feel Commissioners may unnecessarily intervening in their operations or existing dissolution processes.

The power of dissolution will only be considered in the most extreme cases and only when necessary because a resolution through mediation cannot be achieved. The changes in the law proposed by the task force will give County Commissioners greater oversight of the Special Districts and a tool to bring them to the table to discuss and resolve problems before two county entities become engaged in litigation or a Special District ends up on the

ballot for retention or dissolution by voters.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the three draft bills and we humbly request you move the bills so they may be heard in the 2017 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Bill Novotny, III Jim Hicks Linda Greenough
Johnson County Board of Commissioners