

Wyoming Liberty Index

62nd Wyoming Legislature ★ 2014 Budget Session

HB0035, Select committee on the transfer of public land.

Sponsors: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee

Aye votes: Representatives Baker, Berger, Blevins, Blikre, Brown, Burkhart, Campbell, Cannady, Coleman, Connolly, Davison, Eklund, Esquibel, K., Greear, Greene, Halverson, Harvey, Hunt, Hutchings, Jaggi, Kasperik, Kirkbride, Kroeker, Krone, Larsen, Lockhart, Loucks, Lubnau, Madden, Mader, McKim, Miller, Moniz, Nicholas, B., Northrup, Patton, Paxton, Petroff, Piiparinen, Reeder, Semlek, Sommers, Stubson, Teeters, Throne, Walters, Watt, Wilson, Winters, Zwonitzer, Dn. and Zwonitzer, Dv.

Nay votes: Representatives Barlow, Blake, Byrd, Filer, Freeman, Gingery and Goggles

Comments

Not as good as Utah's HB 148 (2013), but starts the ball rolling toward an interstate compact to recover our public lands. See <http://americanlandscouncil.org/> for more information.

A: This bill contains an appropriation of \$20,000 from the GENERAL FUND to the Legislative Service Office. Appoints a committee to look at the issue of public lands within the State of Wyoming that are held by the national government. There are arguments both for and against the Constitutionality of the national government holding de facto title to land that has not been overtly ceded to the national government by the legislature of the State. This bill at least starts the process toward resolving the issue and putting it to rest. This is an important liberty issue insofar as it would clarify an aspect of States Rights and resolve why the national government should or should not have purview over and above the authority that the State grants to private owners. It also would address why the national government should have inside a State much the same authority over some lands as it was Constitutionally authorized within Territories of the United States of America. Governmental centralization is always inimical to Liberty. Ignoring the provisions of the Constitutions of the USA or of the State of Wyoming almost always promotes the centralization of governmental power and damages Liberty.

Weighted Rating: 2.50. Unweighted Rating: 1.00.

Categories

Federalism, Limited Government, Separation of Powers, and Spirit and Letter of Founding Documents

For more information on the categories:

<http://wyominglibertyindex.info/2014/methodology.html#thecategories>

Document Status

Final