



January 14, 2019

Honorable Eli Bebout
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Wyoming Joint Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Advancing coal technologies

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the JAC,

When I say that we in Wyoming are leading the way towards a brighter future and solving the world's energy problems it is based on a proven track record of success and vision. Thank you for building her reputation. Already the Wyoming Integrated Test Center is up and running and awaiting its first tenants. This facility is the first of its kind in the nation, truly unique, and will spur innovation in turning carbon into a desired and marketable commodity.

Specifically, the ITC is going to allow for the testing of post-combustion carbon capture. While there are several types of post-combustion technologies, only one has been proven to be effective. The ITC will allow us to do more to develop others. Many legislators saw a successful, commercial-scale Amine scrubbing system firsthand on a trip to Houston in 2017. During the same trip, they saw a novel combustion system utilizing natural gas, which could have future coal applications.

So, while promising post-combustion technologies will be tested at the ITC in the coming years, I would ask that we move swiftly to support advances in additional technologies advancing pre-combustion and novel generation systems using coal with carbon capture capabilities.

My recommendation is that we provide \$10 million to the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources for the purpose of constructing a 5-megawatt equivalent pilot project utilizing advanced coal-based generation technology that captures at least 75 percent of carbon emissions.

But, I also propose that no project be undertaken until matching funds or in-kind contributions for at least half of costs are committed. I also propose that State funding not be eligible for the match.

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I also have another recommendation for this funding that should be built into the agreement language, and that is, should the intellectual property developed from the project be sold; the developer relocate; or if a commercial scale project utilizing the technology is constructed outside of Wyoming, then the owners of the intellectual property are obligated to repay the funds they receive from the State of Wyoming. However, if a commercial-scale project using this technology is successfully operational in Wyoming, within 12 years of receiving the award, then they are not obligated to repay the State.

To move this ahead, SER has the knowledge and expertise to issue a request for proposals to find a qualified project proponent.

The leadership Wyoming has already shown has raised our profile and creates opportunities like this. The University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources is at the center of our efforts and can be a catalyst. I propose that we continue to push forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Gordon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Governor Mark Gordon



January 14, 2019

Honorable Eli Bebout
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Wyoming Joint Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the JAC,

Wyoming people have a strong connection to the outdoors and to wildlife. The state has some of the highest rates of participation in hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in the nation. The unparalleled vistas, open spaces and clean water also attract visitors from across the globe. All told, the economic contribution from wildlife is over \$1 billion per year.

One way the state can build and conserve these resources and continue to support its people is by adding to the Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT). Over the past 15 years or so, the Trust has funded projects in all 23 counties of the state and the dollars from the Trust have been levered more than five to one with additional funding. You all have truly created an entity that spurs investment.

Unfortunately, it is not meeting demand. This past year there were \$12 million in applications for projects with only \$4 million in funding available.

The WWNRT does much more than purchase conservation easements. It has made enormous efforts in building out infrastructure for irrigation and water. These projects all enhance wildlife while simultaneously serving the agricultural needs of our state. These projects are always vetted and monitored by an engaged and committed board of Wyoming citizens.

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In the coming years, as Wyoming advances our invasive species initiative, the WWNRT will play an integral role in implementing the on-the-ground work. Therefore I recommend that Governor Mead's recommendation of adding to \$5 million to the corpus of the Trust be done and ask that we go further by adding another one-time investment of \$5 million. This would add a total of \$10 million to the WWNRT for this biennium. The Fund has facilitated energy development, while buoying tourism and agriculture significantly. It is a valuable tool.

Thank you again for all of your work and the review of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Gordon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Governor Mark Gordon



January 14, 2019

Honorable Eli Bebout
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Wyoming Joint Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Re: Combating invasive weeds

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the JAC,

Wyoming's agricultural sector is grappling with an incipient emergency, with invasive and noxious plants. This threat is not new, but it is accelerating. In just the last few years two new weeds arrived in Wyoming. These are medusahead wildrye and ventenata. Our northern counties are first to contend with this arrival, but just as with other noxious species like cheatgrass, leafy spurge and bulbous bluegrass, these are degrading the range and negatively affecting the agricultural industry.

These noxious weeds impact more than just agriculture though. All citizens should be concerned because they are decreasing the viability of big game and other wildlife populations, as well as raising the risk of fire.

As this invasive-species threat increases, we need to be doing more as a state and on our public lands. I have a long-term plan to work with the University of Wyoming, community colleges, weed and pest districts and the Board of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust to ensure Wyoming is a leader now and in the future in the fight against invasives.

In the short-term, I propose that we rise to fight these invasives by enhancing our investment by \$500,000 in the supplemental budget, biennialized, for combatting noxious weeds on State Lands.

This work on our state lands will help prevent the spread onto neighboring lands and protect Wyoming's native fauna. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Governor Mark Gordon



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Re: Predator control

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the JAC,

Wyoming's big game, sensitive species, cattle and sheep all contend with many factors, from blizzards to drought. One area where we, as a state, have been able to find ways to protect livestock, sage grouse and pronghorn populations is with appropriate predator control. There is also research from those in the wildlife world showing that when done in a measured and localized way predator control also helps our iconic mule deer.

Yet, some of the proposed predator control work has not been done in the last few years and in some areas depredation by predators has been increasing.

I propose adding \$400,000 to the supplemental budget from the general fund for FY 2020 and biennialized for the Animal Damage Management Board budget. This is in service of agriculture, hunting and wildlife watching. It is also predator control done responsibly and professionally. We all appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Governor Mark Gordon



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Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Supporting local communities through OSLI

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the JAC,

I have a specific request to take a step towards improving the tools required for cities, towns and counties to prosper. This is an idea for giving those local governments and ultimately all of our citizens clearer means to apply for and get grants and loans.

Right now at the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) there are many loan programs already in place and recently two new programs were created. These are the Capital Construction Loans (\$400 million from PWTF) and Student Dormitory Loan (\$60 million from PWTF). These programs could be helpful to our local communities.

The opportunity we have is to improve the services available to the public by putting a person in place with technical expertise to help local governments apply for and use these programs more effectively.

I propose adding a position at OSLI with the primary duties of assisting local governments in preparing their applications submitted under the new programs. This will expedite the process.

There is not currently an engineer position at the OSLI that can review the technical aspects of an application like project size, cost, design and compliance with all necessary regulations. For example, is the capital project being built to specification and are the associated costs appropriate and reasonable?

By creating and funding this position we would also help communities develop Capital Improvement plans to assist with the continued operations, planning and maintenance for major infrastructure to ensure essential public services remain available. It would also be able to assist our communities in preparing applications, identifying and prioritizing necessary projects.

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Re: Supporting local communities through OSLI

As you know I am not a proponent of growing state government, but where it can significantly help local entities and communities, I stand ready to assist.

This request is for \$170,000/biennium in the 100 series. There is no need to add to the 200 series as it will be provided by the OSLI. Thank you for considering this approach for supporting our local communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Gordon".

Governor Mark Gordon