



March 25, 2022

The Honorable Edward Buchanan  
Secretary of State  
Herschler Building East  
122 W. 25th Street, Suite 100  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Re: No signature of HEA0052/HB0096 - State Officials Salary

Dear Secretary Buchanan:

I believe that you and our other three colleagues would agree that we do not take on the privilege of representing the great citizens of the State of Wyoming for the salary. We all have an immense love for this state and are driven to improve all aspects of her people and lands.

So I am not excited about HEA0052/HB0096, which increases the salaries for the five statewide elected officials. None of us asked for it. In fact, over the past two years, I have donated all of my statutorily directed salary to address food insecurity – a cause which you have also supported. Nevertheless, as a former Treasurer, I am compelled to consider not just my situation and current position, but also that of other elected officials and future administrations as the steward of these matters.

Unhappily, I believe Wyoming must consider the costs associated with public elected statewide office. If we want to encourage others than those who live close to Cheyenne to run for office, we must recognize what owning or renting a residence in the Capital City really takes, as well as what moving one's family to a new community and school demands. I understand that, even though elected officials are not paid in the same manner as similarly situated executives in the private sector, there is nonetheless a need for these salaries to increase from time-to-time. Moreover, if we want qualified people to run for these offices, we must concede that simple ambition alone is far from the best compensation to encourage the quality of office holders Wyoming people would want to see in the state's top five elected positions. We are lucky to have the five we have, but beyond more appropriately compensating them for their efforts, we must also widen the pool of applicants willing to serve.

Noting that these salaries have not increased since 2002 and that they will not increase until the next slate of statewide elected officers is elected and sworn into office, I am allowing this legislation to become law without my signature.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon  
Governor

MG:ba:kh

cc: The Honorable Dan Dockstader, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Eric Barlow, Speaker of the House  
Chief Clerk, Wyoming Senate  
Chief Clerk, Wyoming House of Representatives