

60th Legislature

Bill Winney wrote the below article. This is abridged. It remains a central part of how Bill approaches legislation. House Bill 213 was vetoed and resubmitted in the Budget Session as Rangeland Health Assessments, passed and signed with reduced funding.

During both sessions Bill Winney attended and spoke at each committee hearing on both Rangeland Monitoring (HB213) and the Rangeland Health Assessments (SF7) bills.



Defending a Way of Life

The Wyoming House Agriculture Committee, Chaired by Mark Semlek of Crook County, heard testimony for House Bill 213, Rangeland Monitoring, by Rep Allen Jaggi.

The essence is that Wyoming must fund and conduct scientific inquiry, study, and analysis to enable Wyoming to maintain and enhance ranching. This is really a way of life extending back to the Civil War.

Representative Sue Wallis of Campbell County, noted that the United States had recently become a net importer of food. The committee heard testimony noting loss of land to subdivision when ranching became more than a family was willing to handle.

The system beats people down fighting for grazing allotments or planning to hand off their land to another generation.

Families make decisions within existing laws. Their land can bring them riches beyond their dreams.

There is a larger issue for Wyoming and our nation. Agricultural land taken out of production reduces our ability to feed ourselves.

The solution is both simple and complex: *We must find a way to keep productive land producing.*

Yet, to the extent that tax laws prevent passing such land on from generation to generation they *must be changed.*

We must recognize that when we take on a Federal Bureaucracy we do so on *their home turf*, the Federal Courts, and with hard scientific information, studies, and research.

An unwritten rule of bureaucracies is that one bureaucracy will defer to a "fellow bureaucracy" unless strong, hard evidence calls for a different decision.

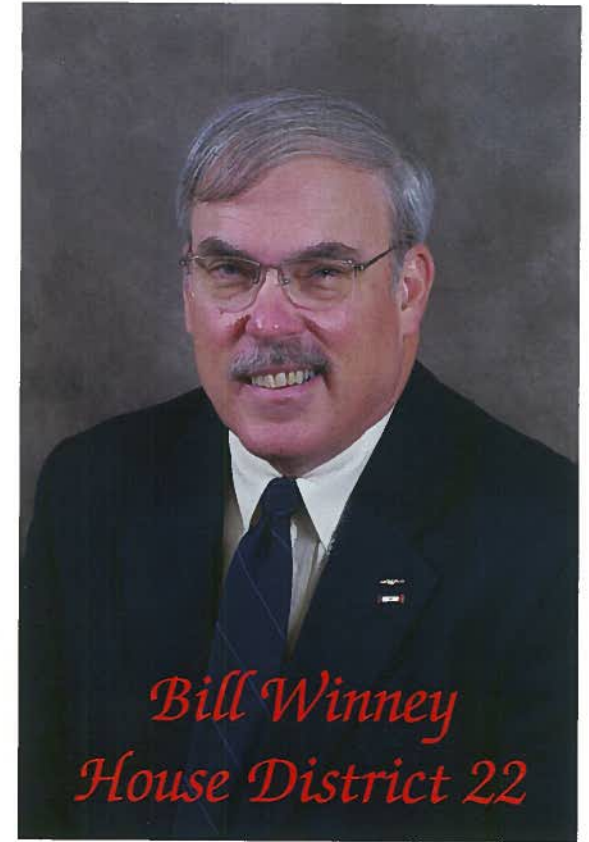
There is no other way to prevail particularly when Non-Governmental Organizations bring what they see as hard, scientific information to the federal courts.

HB 213 is designed to do just that kind of research enabling our ability to stand toe to toe with an opponent in a federal court. This Bill drives directly to Wyoming's ability to defend the very heart of its way of life.

I believe HB 213 merits full funding.

The House Ag Committee recommended full funding. Later reduced as it progressed.

I will ensure viability for this program.



Senator Dan Dockstader (SD-16):

HD22 needs Solid Republican representation.

I have come to know Bill Winney well as he has observed our legislature closely. His remarks in committee hearings are direct, to the point and well received. He clearly knows the process of legislating. Our House Republicans need his skills.

Winney for HD-22
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Paid for by Bill Winney

Philmont Trek, 1965



As a Boy Scout I twice trekked at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron New Mexico. These experiences taught me the value of our lands.

Environmental Stewardship

I believe in good stewardship of our resources.

Laws passed by Congress... can be undone by Congress.

Stewardship develops resources in a manner that protects and restores lands, heritage, and wildlife passing it on to future generations. Completely fencing off lands does not do this. Congressional desperation can undo much.

Wyoming has enormous natural beauty, a unique landscape, and an historic heritage.

Lands must be open to appropriate and controlled development. Safeguards must be put in place. Wells must be minimized. Access must be planned and limited.

I do not believe in the phrase "drill here, drill now, pay less." This is little more than laissez-faire and never serves a nation well.

I believe the endpoint of completely fencing off lands that are not in the crown jewel category will lead to an eventual despoilation of these lands.

Endorsements

Wyoming Stock Growers Assn PAC

WyWatch Pac

Senator Grant Larson, SD-17

Bill Winney is ready to serve House District 22. He is a willing worker, he is knowledgeable of our legislative process, and he is ready.

Chairman Pat Childers, HD-50, Park

Bill Winney understands how governments work, the budget process, and working for support. Voting is a small part of our process. He must shake many hands, build relationships and convince other legislators. I see this in Bill. Send him to Cheyenne.

Chairman Del McOmie, HD-54, Lander

Bill Winney has spoken in front of my committee. He is succinct and to the point. His willingness to work with people and our legislators makes him a standout. He should be your Representative.

If we allow desperation to creep up on us, we will then recover resources and the best that can be said of protections at that point will be "a lick and a promise."

We can do better. Preserving our natural beauty and way of life is vastly important. I will work for this in our Legislature.

Our Economy – Our district is home to the single biggest revenue generator in Wyoming. Energy spins generators driving our economy. HD-22 receives great income from this driver. Preserving our natural beauty and way of life is vastly important.

Ranching and tourism follow closely in our way of life. There is only one way to combine a respect for our environment, a necessity to feed ourselves, and protect those things we hold sacred. We must continue a strong economy and that must be done with **multiple use** of resources.

Taxes – Wyoming has low taxes – with no income tax – we must be vigilant and hold the line. Workers coming into HD-22 should be able to establish homes and bring their families. I will work to put in place a homestead exemption.

Eldercare - Similarly our elderly must be allowed to remain in their homes. Pushing them out, based on taxes, is wrong for them and wrong for the state. If an elderly family on a fixed income is having trouble paying taxes then that system must be changed.

Wind - Our legislature is working on how wind energy should be taxed. I believe it should be taxed at the same rate as other energy sources. An equivalency should be determined.

Schools & Education – Our schools are the incubator of future economic activity. Our nation has always thrived on its ingenuity, skills, and willingness to sweat.

The current focus in education adds ever more layers of bureaucracy on top of the teachers. This must be stopped. Children are "success machines" – they will do what works – we must build a system that makes success a reality.

Illegal Immigration – Twenty-Four years after Senator Alan Simpson sponsored reform, there is far too little progress. The true fix lies in Washington: **First Things First: Fix the Borders.** Our legislature must find ways to support this federal responsibility.

Tenth Amendment – Holding our ground against federal encroachment is important. Yet we must be careful with what legislation we pass. Legislation that does not take notice that the final arbiter of this issue lies in the federal judiciary is just "feel good" legislation.

Clean Energy – There are several key issues needing resolution. A top item will surely be how eminent domain is employed as we develop wind farms. Good planning is of vast importance. Second will be how to solve the variable availability of wind energy. Employing Pumped Storage is one solution but that takes significant real estate. Finally will be whether to limit the sheer number of wind towers.

Natural Gas for motor fuel – It is well known that natural gas is a superior motor fuel. Engines designed for it are more efficient. There is a large investment that must be made to build a motor fuel supply infrastructure.