

Senator Von Flatern Outlines Commercial Air Service Legislation

Charity @ County 17 POSTED ON JANUARY 11, 2018 0

(Gillette, Wyo.) Wyoming Senator Michael Von Flatern said reliability is the key issue that would be addressed by Senate File 40, the Commercial Air Improvement Act. Von Flatern outlined the legislation this morning at the Energy Capital Economic Development quarterly breakfast at the Campbell County Airport.

If passed, the legislation would create a fifteen member council tasked with developing a ten year plan to improve commercial air service throughout the state. The council made up of four non-voting members: the Governor, and heads of WYDOT, Wyoming Office of Tourism and the Wyoming Business Council. Voting members will include one Senator, one Representative, two members each from the public at-large, Aeronautics Commission and ENDOW and one member each from the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, Wyoming County Commissioners Association and Wyoming Airport Operators Association.

The council is tasked with not only putting together a proposal to present to potential air carriers, but also to calculate how much investment is necessary for each community if they choose to participate in the capacity agreement. Sixty percent of the cost would come from state funding and the remaining 40 percent would be paid by individual communities.

When asked by Mayor Louise Carter-King how the legislation would help Gillette, Von Flatern said the legislation would guarantee three flights a day out of Gillette for the next 10 years if the Campbell County Airport chooses to participate. The capacity agreement would mean profits from Wyoming's airports would go to the state, rather than the airlines.

There's also a clause written into the legislation that the council will not take any action intended to interfere with existing commercial air services operating out of airports in the state.

The 64th Wyoming State Legislature is scheduled to convene Feb. 12. There are nearly 90 pieces of legislation already on the agenda for the 45-day session.