



October 26, 2021

The Honorable Dan Dockstader
Senate President
Wyoming Senate
213 State Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

The Honorable Eric Barlow
Speaker of the House
Wyoming House of Representatives
213 State Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear President Dockstader, Speaker Barlow and Members of the 66th Legislature:

Pursuant to Article 4, Section 4: the Governor is obliged to communicate to the Legislature, at the beginning of each session, the condition of the state. This Special Session comes about in the middle of preparing the next biennium budget. That work is not yet complete. Since this Special Session does not concern itself with the regular business of the State, a routine state of the state seems unwarranted. For the record, Wyoming has done well over this past year. We are coming back. Companies are looking favorably to Wyoming as a friendly place to do business. News from several sectors has been encouraging, but our progress is precarious and we should be mindful about how best to nurture this recovery. This Special Session, though, is not about the regular business of the State.

It has been hard to stomach the increasingly aggressive license the Biden Administration has taken over the past few months to extend the federal government's overreach into our lives. This temerity is offensive to me, to you, to Wyoming citizens, and to the Constitution that enumerates our rights. It must be stopped. In Wyoming, we believe in small government closest to those it governs. One that is limited by the checks and balances enshrined in our Constitution and embodied in the very nature of our country as a republic. Regardless of whether overreach emanates from Washington or Cheyenne, we are opposed to its interference in our lives.

Wyoming citizens have not been shy in expressing their objections to government mandates. We value personal responsibility much higher than we do government edict. And we agree that Wyoming cannot let these federal transgressions stand.

From the start, my Administration has been active in defending our citizens' rights. You all know that I banned vaccine passports by Directive as soon as that notion surfaced and, you know that I have directed my staff and cabinet to spare no effort in forcefully opposing government mandates. I firmly believe that COVID-19 vaccination must be a personal choice.

As a conservative and a Republican, I believe in the individual rights every citizen is afforded under both our national Constitution and our state Constitution. That includes the right of any

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citizen to run their business as they see fit. Therefore, I am incensed that the Biden Administration would have the audacity to mandate that private employers require their employees be vaccinated against COVID-19, and find it unconscionable to threaten to withhold Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements unless mandates are enforced. Using taxpayer dollars in an attempt to coerce compliance is nothing more than blackmail.

Our Constitution was written and fought for to protect our liberties as Americans; not to become an instrument of oppression. The Biden Administration's pronouncements on these matters demonstrate its complete disregard for the rule of law and the freedoms that both individuals and private companies enjoy under our Constitution. Our founders recognized what we here in