

Email from Wyoming Secretary of State Chuck Gray to The Sheridan Press Thursday, March 19:

"I'm adding the editor of the Sheridan Press because of the newspaper's continued false and defamatory reporting on this issue.

This newspaper's reporting that the General Fund belongs to and is controlled by our office is false and ignores Wyoming law and all of the other agencies which are funded by the General Fund of the Wyoming Legislature.

This newspaper does not understand what the General Fund means. The "General Fund" is used for the ordinary operating account of the entire state government. Per Wyo. Stat. 9-4-204(t)(i)(A), the General Fund is to be used "for the ordinary operation of state government" and will "account for all expenditures not otherwise provided for by law in any other fund." It receives revenue from many sources including state severance taxes, state sales and use taxes, state investment income, alcohol taxes, and miscellaneous revenues. More information on the General Fund can be found on page 10 of the attached Budget and Fiscal Data book provided by the Legislative Service Office.

Our administration takes business fraud and abuse of corporate filings very seriously. Yesterday, representatives of the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office conducted several targeted, in-person audits of commercial registered agents, including the location of 30 North Gould Street in Sheridan, Wyoming, marking the beginning of an audit review process to ensure compliance with existing Wyoming law governing commercial registered agents.

Although our office conducts regular audits to ensure compliance with the Commercial Registered Agents Act, these targeted, in-person audits of large commercial registered agents are an important part of ensuring compliance with Wyoming law.

I am disappointed that the Wyoming Legislature chose not to pursue multiple bills that were filed in the legislature to attack fraud, which would have provided our office even more tools to take on business fraud. However, we will continue to work during the interim on enhancing our office's ability to combat business fraud, and will also continue working with the tools and resources we have to make sure commercial registered agents are following existing Wyoming law.

When Senator Crago presented his bill in House Corporations, he said that he would rather it be taken up as an interim topic, basically causing all momentum to be lost on passage of the bill. It was very disappointing, and is a reflection of how Senator Crago did not want to take it to the finish line in this session. We needed to get this done, but unfortunately Senator Crago would not vigorously defend his own bill in committee.

At the beginning of the year, our office launched our Business Filing Fraud Reporting webpage, a one-stop-shop for citizens to report false or fraudulent filings so our office can take action in accordance with Wyoming law. During the 2026 Legislative Session, I also supported several

bills to enhance our office's authority to dissolve business entities and regulate commercial registered agents, including House Bill 125, which would have enabled our office to dissolve entities that commit fraud on another person, and Senate File 82, which increased our oversight of registered agents. While these bills faced opposition by many commercial registered agents who testified that entities would leave Wyoming if enacted, I supported these bills as common-sense means of combatting fraud. This newspaper's refusal to print that I supported Senate File 82 shows how biased you have become.

This office has markedly increased the number of administrative dissolutions and CRA oversight from previous administrations to ensure compliance with Wyoming law, and will continue to exercise our authority under Wyoming law, as well as push for increased authority via the legislative process. As we did in 2023 and 2024, we will continue to request that the Wyoming Legislature's interim include an examination of Wyoming statutes to increase our authority to take on business fraud and foreign adversaries. Administrative dissolutions of limited liability companies are conducted in accordance with Wyoming law, and processed by our amazing team to ensure legal dissolution with proper due process, as indicated by some of the dissolutions and accompanying affidavits. This has been enhanced since the launching of our Business Filing Fraud webpage, which has more information about the process of administratively dissolving a business entity in accordance with Wyoming law. Just yesterday, our office launched a series of audits of commercial registered agents, including those located at 30 North Gould Street, in Sheridan. These targeted, in-person audits of large commercial registered agents are an important part of ensuring compliance with Wyoming law, and our office also conducts regular audits to ensure compliance with the Commercial Registered Agents Act.

The launch of the administrative dissolution process, which was not used often by my predecessors, has been very important in attacking fraud.”