January 8, 2024

Honorable Tara Nethercott
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Joint Appropriations Committee
200 West 24th Street, Capitol Building, E201
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) Support and Cybersecurity (Letter # 8)

Dear Chairwoman Nethercott, Chairman Nicholas and members of the Joint Appropriations Committee,

In the ever-evolving digital landscape, we must adapt to fortify our cybersecurity posture and enhance our approach to managing information technology assets and projects across all state agencies. Various communities and organizations across our state have suffered significant negative impacts, including direct financial impacts, from cybersecurity breaches.

The cybersecurity team within Wyoming is notably smaller compared to other states (see attached schedule of cybersecurity teams of other states). This disparity underscores the critical need to strengthen our cyber defenses, emphasizing a proactive and robust approach to cybersecurity to effectively monitor, detect, and swiftly respond to potential threats. Such vigilance is essential in protecting our digital assets and securing the sensitive information it contains.

Additionally, the need for specialized IT project management is more critical than ever. Your committee knows this as well as anyone. Skilled project-management professionals and business relationship managers will ensure that our IT projects are executed efficiently, on time, and within budget, and help ensure that the state receives the product and service for which it has paid. However, after consolidation we lack sufficient funding and positions for these roles, especially with the increased reliance of state operations on information systems. With the increasing complexity of technology projects, their expertise will be invaluable in navigating the technical and operational challenges agencies face so that we can maximize the return on investment.

This is why I am asking to increase the investment in IT and cybersecurity with positions. While my request for 37 positions may seem substantial, those do not come close to the number of positions cut during consolidation. Since the inception of the Department of Enterprise

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Technology Services, more than 130 IT positions have been cut across all state agencies[1]. My aim is not to grow government, but to right size enterprise IT. My proposed budget will step up cybersecurity, enable us to respond more effectively to the needs of our citizens, and allow agencies to make more informed decisions and deliver services more efficiently. This is not the number of positions we want, it is what we need to protect Wyoming's security and run government effectively.

Therefore, I have included in my profile $6,800,000 effective immediately in on-going general funds to ETS for cybersecurity and non-cybersecurity positions. Of this recommendation $2,300,000 will be used for 14 cybersecurity positions and $4,500,000 will be used for 23 positions across the department to include the Business Management Office, Customer Support Services, Information Technology Operations and Enterprise Architecture/ Platform development. This includes the necessary equipment and other costs associated with these positions.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and timely request.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:dp:kh

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[1] In an October 2012 memo to Governor Mead, the CIO at the time reported there were 421 IT positions in state government. An LSO memo from Dec 2023 reports 425 positions for the same time period.

(footnote cont'd on following page)

Further reporting kept by the Deputy CIO from 2012 to 2017 confirms the 425 IT position count across 30 agencies (including ETS). As of Dec 2017, this report indicated a reduction of 126 IT positions to 299.

A&I reports between Dec 2017 and Dec 2023 note that IT positions were further reduced to 274 - 201 within ETS and 73 in other agencies as SMEs. Resulting in 151 IT positions reduced since 2012.

I have not been able to locate a report of the full 425 positions. The best I have found is 396.

Not all 151 IT positions were cut. I have found reference to 23 positions believed to have been reclassified out of the IT class code and still active. I have reached out to A&I to see if we can better clarify this.

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* **Number of staff in CyberSecurity Roles**

State	Total FTEs	Interns/Contractors	State	Total FTEs	Interns/Contractors
Alaska	11		Nevada	9	
Arizona	150	5 Interns	New Hampshire	5	
Colorado	82		New Jersey	54	8 Contractors
Deleware	15	10 Contractors	North Dakota	55	
Florida	30		Oklahoma	60	
Hawaii	24		Oregon	64	
Idaho	16		South Dakota	20	2 Intern
Illinois	45	20 Contractors	Tennessee	29	2 Intern
Louisiana	21		Texas	280	113 Contractors
Michigan	127		Utah	25	
Minnesota	98		West Virginia	10	
Montana	25		Wisconsin	80	
Nebraska	6		Wyoming	6	

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