

**HB 133: Taxation of Helium
2008 Budget Session**

Sponsor: Rep. Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R-H10, Pine Bluffs); co-sponsors Reps. Mary Gilmore (D-H59, Casper), David Miller (R-H55, Riverton), Mark Semlek (R-H1, Moorcroft), Sue Wallis (R-H52, Recluse) and Sens. Jim Anderson (R-S2, Glenrock), Cale Case (R-S25, Lander), Jayne Mockler (D-S8, Cheyenne)

HB 133 imposed a six percent severance tax on helium produced in Wyoming, which is equal to the current same severance tax rate for natural gas produced in the state.

About 25% of the world's annual supply of helium is currently produced from one plant in Sublette County, with a second helium plant recently proposed near Big Piney. The proposed six percent tax on current production will generate about \$1.75 million annually. No revenue estimate for the newly proposed helium plant, slated to begin production in 2009, was available.

Proponents of HB 133 argued that there is no logic to not taxing the production of helium in the same way we tax other natural resources. Their support was strengthened when plans for the second helium plant were announced after the legislative session had started.

Opponents worried that taxing helium might negatively affect helium production.

The House passed HB 133, 57-1 (2 excused) and the Senate passed the bill, 26-4.

The votes listed below are the House and Senate third reading (final passage) votes. A YES vote means the legislator wanted to impose a six percent severance tax rate on helium production. A NO vote means the legislator did not want to impose this severance tax on helium.

Bighorn Basin Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 18	Hank Coe (R)		Yes
H 24	Colin Simpson (R)	Yes	
H 50	Pat Childers (R)	Yes	
S 19	Ray Peterson (R)		Yes
H 25	Alan Jones (R)	Yes	
H 26	Elaine Harvey (R)	Yes	
S 20	Gerald E. Geis (R)		No
H 27	Debbie Hammons (D)	Yes	
H 28	Lorraine Quarberg (R)	Yes	

Casper-Area Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 27	Bill Landen (R)		No
H 35	Roy Cohee (R)	Yes	
H 36	Mary Hales (R)	Yes	
S 28	Kit Jennings (R)		No
H 56	Tim Stubson (R)	Yes	
H 57	Thomas A. Lockhart (R)	Yes	
S 29	Drew A Perkins (R)		Yes
H 37	Steve Harshman (R)	Yes	
H 59	Mary Gilmore (D)	Excused	
S 30	Charles K. Scott (R)		Yes
H 38	Bob Brechtel (R)	Yes	
H 58	Lisa Shepperson (R)	Yes	

Cheyenne-Area Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 4	Tony Ross (R)		Yes
H 7	Doug Samuelson (R)	Yes	
H 41	Ken A Esquibel (D)	Yes	
S 5	Robert (Bob) Fecht (R)		Yes
H 8	Lori Millin (D)	Yes	
H 42	Pete Illoway (R)	Yes	
S 6	Wayne H. Johnson (R)		Yes
H 9	David Zwonitzer (R)	Yes	
H 10	Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R)	Yes	
S 7	Kathryn Sessions (D)		Yes
H 11	Mary Throne (D)	Yes	
H 43	Dan Zwonitzer (R)	Yes	
S 8	E. Jayne Mockler (D)		Yes
H 12	Amy L Edmonds (R)	Yes	
H 44	Floyd Esquibel (D)	Yes	

Gillette-Area Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 23	John Hines (R)		Yes
H 31	Thomas E. Lubnau II (R)	Yes	
H 52	Sue Wallis (R)	Yes	
S 24	Michael Von Flatern (R)		Yes
H 32	Timonthy Hallinan (R)	Yes	
H 53	Erin Mercer (R)	Yes	

Lander/Riverton-Area Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 25	Cale Case (R)		Yes
H 33	W. Patrick Goggles (D)	Yes	
H 54	Del McOmie (R)	Yes	
S 26	Eli Bebout (R)		Yes
H 34	Frank Philp (R)	Yes	
H 55	David Miller (R)	No	

Northeast/East Central WY Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 1	C.L. Townsend (R)		No
H 1	Mark Semlek (R)	Yes	
H 2	Ross Diercks (D)	Yes	
S 2	Jim Anderson (R)		Yes
H 5	Matt Teeters (R)	Yes	
H 6	Dave Edwards (R)	Yes	
S 3	Curt Meier (R)		Yes
H 3	Deborah Alden (R)	Yes	
H 4	Edward A. Buchanan (R)	Yes	

Sheridan-Area Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 21	Bruce Burns (R)		Yes
H 29	Jerry Iekel (R)	Excused	
H 51	Rosie Berger (R)	Yes	
S 22	John Schiffer (R)		Yes
H 30	Jack Landon (R)	Yes	
H 40	Mike Madden (R)	Yes	

South Central WY Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 9	Mike Massie (D)		Yes
H 13	Jane Warren (D)	Yes	
H 45	Kevin A. White (R)	Yes	
S 10	Phil Nicholas (R)		Yes
H 14	Kermit C. Brown (R)	Yes	
H 46	James Slater (R)	Yes	
S 11	Bill Vasey (D)		Yes
H 15	George Bagby (D)	Yes	
H 47	William Steward (R)	Yes	

Southwest WY Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 12	Rae Lynn Job (D)		Yes
H 48	Marty Martin (D)	Yes	
H 16	Pete Jorgensen (D)	Yes	
S 13	John M Hastert (D)		Yes
H 17	Bernadine Craft (D)	Yes	
H 60	Bill Thompson (D)	Yes	
S 14	Stan Cooper (R)		Yes
H 18	Allen Jaggi (R)	Yes	
H 39	Stan Blake (D)	Yes	
S 15	Ken Decaria (D)		Yes
H 19	Owen Petersen (R)	Yes	
H 49	Saundra Meyer (D)	Yes	

West Central WY Legislators		HB 133 H 3rd	HB 133 S 3rd
S 16	Pat Aullman (R)		Yes
H 20	Kathy Davison (R)	Yes	
H 21	Dan Dockstader (R)	Yes	
S 17	Grant Larson (R)		Yes
H 22	Monte Olsen (R)	Yes	
H 23	Keith Gingery (R)	Yes	
See Southwest Region for H 16 and S 12			