# UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2024 General Legislative Session

Week #7

March 3, 2024

### **2024 Legislative Update**

Each update provides key highlights for the prior weeks General Legislative Session and what is expected for the week ahead. The focus of this update are the Utah state legislation and actions for protecting wildlife and the environment. Questions and comments can be directed to Dan Strauch: <a href="mailto:strauchmail@yahoo.com">strauchmail@yahoo.com</a>.

### **About the Legislative Update**

The Legislative Update is made possible by the Utah Audubon Council and contributing organizations. Each Update provides legislative actions, descriptions and updates throughout the Session and important dates and progress of key committees. For the most up-to-date information and for the names and contact information for legislators, check the Legislative website at <a href="http://www.le.utah.gov">www.le.utah.gov</a>. The Update focuses on legislative information pertaining to wildlife, sensitive and invasive species, public lands, state parks, SITLA land management, energy development, renewable energy and conservation and water issues. The Update is distributed after each Friday of the Session. Additional Action Alerts may also be distributed during the session. Please use this information to prepare you to contact your legislator with your opinions and concerns!

# **Weekly Update**

#### **NOTE UPDATES**

As the session has ended all bills have a final disposition, PASSED or FAILED. If a bill PASSED it is noted specifically in the STATUS column. For FAILED bills, I noted if they failed on a vote in either chamber or if they simply did not progress, I left the last status so it was clear at what point in the process they stalled.

I have also noted in the POSITION column if a passed bill initiated a study. I will be following these studies as they progress. Also, I will continue to follow implementation of bills that passed and were on the WATCH list (underlined).

#### **SESSION SUMMARY**

Starting on the positive, for water conservation and the GSL there were key appropriations that were needed to implement some of the bills that passed last year. For the most part, the key next steps were funded. See my details on Appropriations in the section below.

On the legislative side, the session started with a number of bills we expected that would re-enforce water conservation.

- HB11 Water Efficient Landscaping Amendments (Tracker Page 5) – Passed
- HB62 Water Ways Amendments (Tracker Page 8) Passed
- HB243 Riparian Amendments (Tracker Page 16) Failed
- HB401 Water Usage Amendments (Tracker Page 26) –
   Failed
- SB18 Water Modifications (Tracker Page 35) Passed

Others added during the session were:

- HB275 Water Amendments (Tracker Page 18) Passed
- HB472 Water Revisions (Tracker Page 30) Failed
- SB196 Great Salt Lake Amendments (Tracker Page 46) –
   Failed

A mixed bag at best.

Then, of course, there were significant bills that could dramatically change how water is managed in the state and more importantly further remove public influence from the process.

- SB211 Generational Water Infrastructure Amendments (Tracker Page 47)
- SB264 Inland Port Authority Amendments (Tracker Page 49)
- SB270 Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake Study Amendments (Tracker Page 50)

The enactment of these will be closely watched and we will be certain to get engaged in any rule making.

### "Subsidizing" Mining

Several bills passed that continue to subsidize mining operations in Utah either through tax credits or removing obstacles to mining expansion. The most impactful are:

- HB353 Mining Operations Amendments (Tracker Page 23)
- HB433 Brine Amendments (Tracker Page 28)
- HB502 Critical Infrastructure and Mining (Tracker Page 31)

The upside HB502 was converted to a study based on strong public feedback. Also, HB433 contains the requirements of a study so still offers opportunity to provide feedback in the future.

# **Keeping Coal**

Legislative action on the energy front was very focused on maintaining coal energy production for Utah. The lead bill on this

SB224 Energy Independence Amendments (Tracker Page 48) essentially commits that Utah will purchase "excess energy" generated by coal-fired power plants. Also, transfers liabilities from power generators to the public.

HB191 Electrical Energy Amendments (Tracker Page 12) and SB161 Energy Security Amendments (Tracker Page 42) also create obstacles to transitioning from coal fueled energy sources.

### **Focus on the Federal Government**

This session saw quite a few bills that literally tried to establish state authority over federal lands and federal decision making. The top-most of which ...

SB57 Utah Constitutional Sovereignty (Tracker Page 37)
 creates a mechanism for any legislator to bring a challenge to a federal rule.

With that early success, other bills targeted similar ...

- HB363 Livestock Grazing Amendments (Tracker Page 24), states federal grazing permits are actually rights and cannot be revoked. Simply no legal standing.
- HB471 Public Lands Possession Amendments (Tracker Page 30), roads cannot be closed on federal land without adjudication. Again, illegal and unconstitutional.
- HB496 Public Land Use Amendments (Tracker Page 31), requires Utah state resources to advocate for grazing on mining on federal lands.

These are obviously bills "for show" as the state has no authority over federal lands.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS ... small victories:**

At the start of the legislative session, the most important needs were for funding for GSL watershed data measuring and the split season leasing incentive. As I read the final appropriations, each did receive funding but the water measurement and split season leasing did not receive the requested funds.

- GSL Watershed Data Measurement RFA, for measuring devices on inflow streams to GSL REQUEST: \$6.3M one time + \$3.6M on-going APPROPRIATED: \$4.5M one time + \$3M on-going
- DWR Water Rights Data Measurement REQUEST: \$6.1M APPROPRIATED: \$3M
- Split Season Leasing, incentive for farmers to skip growing season during hottest months
   REQUEST: \$500k APPROPRIATED: \$171k
   The Executive Appropriations Committee may have added an additional \$171k to this, I am working to confirm.

I will see if I can get in touch with the RFA sponsors and get their reactions to the funding amounts and how that impacts implementation plans.

For the **GSL Commissioner**, it appears that he received the requested \$20M appropriation and potentially another \$10M

from the Executive Committee. Again, I will work to confirm this as well.

Additionally, the Invasive Species Management and Support Staff on Sovereign Lands RFA, which is primarily **phragmites eradication**, did receive requested funds.

# **BILL TRACKING LIST**

Priority Code: 1 = High; 2 = Medium; 3 = Low

Bill	Sponsor	Description	Status	Priority	Position
		Italics are UAC commentary/explanation Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.			
HB 11 Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements  2 <sup>nd</sup> Substitute	Rep. Owens	This bill restricts the use of lawn or turf by certain governmental entities.  This bill is another step in reducing water use on ornamental lawns by Utah State entities.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.  Passed House.  Passed Senate Business and Labor Committee with favorable recommendation on 31 Jan.  2nd Substitute that passed Senate emphasizes the "overhead spray irrigation", limits application to school property and highway land and removes the 20% requirement.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Support
HB 18 Mineral Production Tax Withholding Amendments	Rep. Bolinder	This bill provides penalty provisions that apply if a producer fails to file a form 1099 or fails to file the form 1099 on time amends the percentage of the mineral production tax a producer withholds to align with the income tax rate amends the information a producer is required to provide on a withholding return provides	Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading	3	Neutral

		the requirements for a producer to file a form 1099 with the State Tax Commission.			
HB 23 Division of Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council Sunset Extension	Rep. Brooks	This bill extends the sunset date of the advisory council that advises the Division of Outdoor Recreation on boating policies from 2024 to 2029.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Support
HB 31 Agricultural Tourism Amendments  3rd Substitute	Rep. Albrecht	This bill expands agricultural nuisance liability protections in relation to an agritourism activity; provides that an agricultural protection area may include an ag-tourism activity; requires the Department of Agriculture and Food to maintain an agtourism registry and describes requirements relating to the registry; modifies civil liability limitations in relation to an agricultural tourism activity.  The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading.  Supports additional income for ag producers, means to insure they do not have to sell for development  Passed Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 13 Feb.  3 <sup>rd</sup> Substitute strengthens liability responsibilities of farm owner.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Support
HB 42 Water Rights Publication Amendments	Rep. Briscoe	This bill permits the state engineer to confirm publication of a notice of application through electronic means.  Passed from House to Senate.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Support

		Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 23, '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.			
		Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.	_		
HB 48 Utah Energy Act Amendments	Rep. Jack	This bill modifies reporting requirements for the Office of Energy Development; modifies the purposes of the Office of Energy Development to include:	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	2	Oppose
1 <sup>st</sup> Substitute		<ul> <li>developing strategies to advocate for state interests on federal energy and environmental programs;</li> <li>overseeing legal strategy on federal overreach and permitting delays; and</li> <li>engaging in federal rulemaking and advocacy for regulatory reform; directs the Office of Energy Development to adopt a master plan with data-driven modeling at a statewide level; requires adoption of best practices in development of state energy plans.</li> <li>The Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 1st reading.</li> <li>Concern, while this bill does add duties to OED that are positive for planning and transparency, it also gives it</li> </ul>			
		the authority to push back vs federal energy requirements.  Oppose lines that read "direct the funding of legal effort to combat federal overreach and unreasonable delays regarding energy and environmental permitting"			
		1 <sup>st</sup> substitute removes language stated above. Bill still is means to slow progress to cleaner energy sources.			
HB 57 Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments	Rep. Brooks	This bill repeals the Snake Valley Aquifer Council chapter, removes language citing provisions of that chapter, including: a sunset provision; and	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Neutral

		a provision related to the duties of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office.  Agree that council is no longer needed given recent legal victories.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.  Passed House to Senate.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.			
HB 61 Water Measuring and Accounting Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	This bill modifies the state water policy to address telemetry; grants rulemaking authority regarding measurement and accounting; and makes technical changes, including repealing outdated language.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.  Passed House to Senate.  Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	1	Support
HB 62 Utah Water Ways Amendments  1st Substitute	Rep. Owens	This bill outlines coordination related to water and the public education system.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.  Expect that this bill will be amended. Some members concern was that the education was simply "conservation indoctrination." Rep. Owens rebutted that was not the intent and was willing to amend.  Maintain SUPPORT until amendment seen.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Support

		23 Jan, this bill was "circled" by Rep. Owens on House floor. That means he is still working on changes but wants to keep on House reading calendar.  Passed House to Senate. Assigned to Senate Education Committee.  Substitute #1 has added language that adds to the curriculum on the water cycle; "jobs created by industrial sectors that use water" and "the importance of agriculture in providing food." This is a response to pushback that this was teaching conservation.			
Transportation and Canal Trail Amendments  1st Substitute	Rep. Lesser	This bill requires a canal owner or operator to notify certain entities of the intent to abandon or transfer title of a canal; provides certain entities the right of first refusal to purchase a canal; requires the Department of Natural Resources to compile a list of certain canals and provide that list to the Department of Transportation; requires the Department of Transportation to:  • develop a canal trail toolkit;  • inventory certain canals in the state;  • consider creating a canal trail as part of the active transportation plan; and  • identify certain canal corridors for transportation corridor preservation; enables the Transportation Commission to consider water savings and improvement of canal infrastructure when prioritizing a transportation project.  Introduced to House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee on 18 Jan, 24. Some members expressed concerns about canals on private property. Held by committee.  Maintain SUPPORT until amended.	House Committee. Held	2	Support

		Fiscal note made public on 22 Jan.			
		1 <sup>st</sup> substitute maintains toolkit to help municipalities plan for and build canal paths but eliminates all requirements for canal owners to file information on existing canals that was intended as information for the local government to have as part of planning.			
HB 76 State Resource Management Plan Amendments	Rep. Stratton	This bill adopts a state resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan.  Passed House to Senate.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Support
HB 90 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Amendments	Rep. Stenquist	This bill simply relocates definitions of the current bill.  Passed House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with Favorable Recommendation on 26 Jan  Passed House. Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. On Concurrence calendar.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Neutral
HB 117 Wind Energy Facility Siting Modifications	Rep. Burton	This bill requires the owner of a wind energy facility to file documentation with the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (department) and the Department of Natural Resources that the clearinghouse and the department have determined that the proposed construction does not encroach upon or otherwise have an adverse impact on the military; and provides for penalties if an owner of a wind turbine or a wind energy facility fails to submit the proper documentation to the Department of Natural Resources.  Introduced to House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on 25 Jan. Passed with Favorable Recommendation.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Neutral

		Moved position to Neutral. Based on debate and my research, this process has been adopted by several other states. Is supported by wind energy producers and puts siting determination within a federal government process. Concern would be if not federal than state would act and limit much more.  Passed House to Senate 1st reading calendar.  Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.			
HB 126 Emissions Regulation Amendments	Rep. Stoddard	This bill prohibits the Division of Motor Vehicles from registering a motor vehicle in certain counties if the motor vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds and emits a certain level of nitrogen oxides; removes a provision allowing a county to exempt certain vehicles from emissions inspections.  Remains on assigned list for House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.	House Committee. Not considered.	2	Support
HB 130 Animal Fighting Penalties	Rep. Judkins	This bill amends existing legislation and provide greater specificity to the definitions of dog and game fowl fighting and fighting paraphernalia.  Passed House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 16 Feb.	House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading	3	Support
HB 135 County Land Use Amendments	Rep. Birkeland	This bill removes text from existing legislation that specified actions to be taken prior to 31 December, 2022.  House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading introduced.	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	3	Oppose
HB 151 Public Lands Amendments	Rep. Ward	This bill requires an inventory of public lands by each municipality and notification of interest in public lands.	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	2	Neutral

		How would this information be used?			
		House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading introduced.			
HB 159 Bears Ears Visitor Center Advisory Committee Repeal Amendments 2nd Substitute	Rep. Owens	This bill removes the repeal date of the advisory committee.  1st substitute introduced by Rep. Owens replaces repeal date of 31 Dec '24 to a sunset date of 31 Dec '34.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	2	Support
		House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading introduced.  Passed House Government Operations Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.  2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute changes sunset date to 2029 from 2034.			
Amendments  HB 191 Electrical Energy Amendments	Rep. Jack	This bill sets conditions for when the Public Service Commission may approve the early retirement of an electrical generation facility.  Requires: Retirement does not create a material adverse effect on the provision of affordable, reliable, dispatchable, and secure electricity to customers in the state; create a shortage of available electricity to customers in the state; (c) harm the qualified utility's ratepayers by causing the qualified utility to incur any net incremental costs to be recovered from ratepayers that could be avoided by continuing to operate the electric generating unit proposed for retirement in compliance with applicable law; and (d) be undertaken as a result of any financial incentives or benefits offered by any federal agency.  Oppose as written. Complicates decision by power providers to retire older power generating facilities.  On agenda for House Public Utilities, Energy, and	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	2	Neutral

		Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with Favorable Recommendation. On House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar.  Second substitute introduced. Second sub reduces the absolutism of the initial bill and redefines early retirement and adds condition that if supplier has means to offset lost energy.  Passed House.  Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.	ast 1:		
HB 195 Land Use Planning Amendments	Rep. Owens	This bill requires municipalities and counties to consider development impacts on wildlife in the process of considering and adopting general plans and land use regulations.	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	1	Support
		House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading introduced.			
HB 222 Wildlife Hunting Amendments  3rd Substitute	Rep. Gricius	This bill addresses what is sufficient wearing of hunter orange while hunting big game; grants the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources authority related to the wearing of hunter orange by non-hunters.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Neutral
		2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute includes new language on sale of "big game by-product."			
		Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.  Passed House. On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.			

HB 232 Outdoor Recreation Impacts Fund	Rep. Stenquist	This bill creates the Outdoor Recreation Impacts Restricted Account (restricted account); provides that appropriations from the restricted account are non- lapsing; funds the restricted account with a portion of the sales and use tax revenue remitted by sporting good sellers.  Creates funds to support local municipalities in extraordinary recreation support (solid waste removal, search and rescue, etc) through ear marking funds collected as a tax on sporting goods sellers.  House 1st reading introduced.  Passed House Revenue and Taxation Committee on with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.	Failed House	2	Support
HB 237 Land Use Authority Amendments	Rep. Walter	This bill prohibits a county or municipality from requiring the incorporation of a preferred aesthetic feature in new development unless the preferred aesthetic feature is expressed in the county or municipality's land use regulation.  Deals with aesthetic requirements of buildings only.  Assigned to House Political Subdivisions Committee.	Assigned to House Committee.	3	Neutral
HB 241 Clean Energy Amendment	Rep. Albrecht	This bill changes the term renewable to clean where appropriate in statute. Adds definitions of clean energy sources.  Oppose as written. Identifies "nuclear" as clean energy source. Also establishes a "State Fair Park" agency, need to understand purpose.  Passed in House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on 24 Jan. Passed with favorable recommendation.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Neutral

HB 242 Water Usage	Rep. Ballard	Aligns clean energy definition to federal definition (clean energy = non carbon producing). Nuclear, carbon capture and sequestration and pumped hydropower added to bill are all clean energy as defined by federal statutes. This bill does not expressly facilitate the building of such energy production in Utah.  Passed House to Senate.  I have changed position to Neutral. I feel would be inconsistent to take a position against aligning to federal definitions. Is there a fight at federal level to redefine definition of clean energy to remove Nuclear, etc.? Open to feedback.  Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed Senate and House. On Concurrence calendar.  This bill requires that reporting of water usage by a	Failed House	1	Support
Data Amendments  1st Substitute  2nd Substitute		state agency, requires the Division of Water Resources to conduct a study of public school water use; requires publication and reporting of study findings and recommendations; provides for procurement of smart irrigation controllers.  HELD by House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee on 1 Feb.  First, this is a study only, run by state agencies. Once again push back from rural representatives "not our problem" and "too much work" for a small town.  This is very reasonable collection of date across the state.  HELD due to objections of rural reps.			

		1 <sup>st</sup> substitute exempts small rural counties.			
		2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute adds appropriations to bill.			
HB 243 Riparian Amendments	Rep. Bennion	This bill requires a riparian area element as part of a municipal or county general plan with exceptions; addresses adoption of zoning or other land use	House Failed	1	Support
3 <sup>rd</sup> substitute		ordinances; provides for how a riparian area element is included into a municipal or county general plan; provides for action related to the general plan by the legislative body of a municipality or county; provides for technical assistance from the Division of Water Resources; directs the appointment of a state position related to riparian areas; directs the compilation of a riparian map.  HELD by House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.  Second introduction, second substitution, to House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee on 9 Feb. Again, significant pushback from committee despite second sub eliminating riparian plan as a requirement and really just creates a plan and data base of information that municipalities can use to create a riparian area.  Honestly, I do not see why there was such objections			
		other than areas that would be dedicated riparian could not be used for other purposes.			
		3 <sup>rd</sup> substitute eliminates reporting requirements of canal owners and creates a technical resource (position) in the in DNR as an advisor for development of riparian areas. Does maintain the geo survey of riparian areas.			
HB249 Utah Legal Personhood	Rep. Brooks	This bill prohibits a governmental entity from granting or recognizing legal personhood in certain categories of nonhumans.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	1	Oppose
Amendments		HOHHUHIAHS.	io dovernot.		

	T				
		Sponsor states that this was a response to a <u>"few of his constituents"</u> expressing confusion that other countries or states have extended personhood rights to inanimate objects.  Bill is obvious response to possible environmental rights strategies. Seems reactionary to wording "person" or "personhood."  Passed House to Senate.  Passed by Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.  On Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading calendar.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.			
HB 256 Military Compatible Land Use Amendments	Rep. Peterson	This bill modifies provisions regarding when notice is required related to applications or permits near military land; provides that a municipality or county should deny a land use application if the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs determines that a proposed land use is incompatible with military operations.  First substitution introduced that provides significantly more specificity and eliminates the sole idea that the military "determination of incompatible with military operations" is cause for rejection.  Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	3	Neutral

HB 262 School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments  1st Substitute	Rep. Snider	This bill clarifies that the state may sell or lease land to state entities for fair market value; exempts the sale or lease of certain large aggregations of trust lands from advertising requirements and mineral rights restrictions; excludes certain lands from sale or lease; and requires rulemaking for determining the fair market value of trust lands.  House 1st reading.  Need to better understand the removal of the mineral rights restrictions.  Substitute #1 removes the mineral rights restrictions.  Strengthens the 5,000 acre minimum requirement. Not a requirement to SITLA but an option.  Reduced priority as this is very limited scope as SITLA has very few parcels of this size.  I position as Neutral but I lean to support. This is a means to keep land, albeit relatively small amounts, out of private/developer hands.  1st substitute confirms that land must be 5000 acres and aggregated. Also removes restriction of mineral rights and also reduces restriction on advertising requirements.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Neutral
HB 275 Water Amendments	Rep. Snider	This bill clarifies who is eligible for grant money for water conservation efforts other than secondary water metering.  House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading.  1 <sup>st</sup> substitute introduced. Improvement in that it further limits home association from requiring turf.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	1	Support

		2 <sup>nd</sup> sub introduced that allows electronic submission of data by state engineer.  Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. Concurrence Calendar.			
HB 279 Air Quality Amendments	Rep. Clancy	This bill establishes a policy reducing certain [vehicle] emissions; addresses possible revocation of a vehicle registration for avoiding emissions testing; clarifies civil penalties by counties; provides for counties to notify the Motor Vehicle Division of the use of an address that is not a bona fide address to avoid emissions testing; defines terms; requires specified state agencies to develop plans to reduce emissions; repeals outdated language regarding air quality mitigation.  Fiscal note received 22 Jan.  House introduced.	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	2	Support
Bills added Week 1		riouse introduced.			
HB 280 Water Related Changes 5th Substitution	Rep. Snider	This bill provides for the application of planning and prioritization to water funds and accounts; modifies provisions related to the formulation of a state water plan; amends provisions related to the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account; authorizes rulemaking authority; requires the Board of Water Resources to impose a water use fee and to study the fee and consolidation of funds and accounts; creates the Water Infrastructure Fund; modifies provisions of the Watershed Councils Act; modifies provisions related to the Water Development Coordinating Council; enacts planning and prioritization provisions, including: defining terms; requiring a unified water infrastructure plan; providing for ranking and prioritizing of water infrastructure projects; addressing	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Neutral STUDY

duties; and requiring reserve studies and capital asset management.  Introduced to House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee and HELD on Monday 29 Jan.  Significant concerns expressed by committee and public on the undefined fees and undefined distribution of the fees collected for the Water Infrastructure Fund. Also concern about the centralized decision making of the
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Concern about the centralized decision making of the
Water Development Coordinating Council.
HELD by committee for further discussion and study.
TILLO by committee for further discussion and study.
Second substitute bill introduced. Second bill essentially
converts the fee and council elements of original bill,
most controversial, into studies to complete in 2025.
most controversial, into stadies to complete in 2025.
Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and
Environment Committee with favorable
recommendation on 9 Feb.
Tecommendation on 3 Test
Passed House to Senate.
Presented in Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and
Environment Committee single objection by GBWN to
lines that allow private funding for implementation.
Moved to Neutral and will continue to watch regarding
the private funding options.
5 <sup>th</sup> substitute reduces funding from \$5M to \$2.5M.
HB 291 <b>Department of</b> Rep. Shipp This bill clarifies appointment provisions and reporting Passed House 3 Neutral
Agriculture and Food requirements for the Local Food Advisory and Senate.
Amendments Council; repeals certain requirements relating to the To Governor
registration of weights and measures in commerce or
trade; expands definitions in the Utah Nursery
Act; changes the reporting date for the Utah Soil Health
Program; modifies the composition of the Agricultural

		and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board; modifies provisions relating to animal branding; changes how the department makes value determinations in relation to the destruction of infected livestock; clarifies a reporting requirement for a veterinarian who diagnoses a case of vesicular disease; removes a restriction for funds under the LeRay McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund; repeals a requirement for the department to provide education on horse tripping to horse event venues; repeals a provision relating to infected dairy animals.  This bill has multiple and various changes mostly technical. After further investigation, the changes appear to be of minimal impact. The McAllister Working Farm and Ranch Fund is set up to purchase and preserve open land, primarily for Ag but does prevent construction.			
HB 295 Produced Water Amendments	Rep. Lund	This bill provides for the scope of the Produced Water Act; addresses the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining's regulation of produced water; addresses water right issues; enacts provisions related to possessory interests and control.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.  Sponsor expects this would save need for fresh water as part of the mining/drilling operation, save from 2000 to 8000 acre/feet of fresh water. Non-consumptive use only in Oil and Gas drilling.  Passed House to Senate. On Senate 1st reading calendar.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	2	Support

		Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.			
		Passed House and Senate. To Governor.			_
HB 297 Utah Bee Inspection Act Amendments	Rep. Shipp	Prohibits a state agency from making stricter bee keeping requirements on private property than are more restrictive than those stated in state legislation.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Neutral
2 <sup>nd</sup> Substitute		Fiscal note received 18 Jan.			
		Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.			
		Passed House to Senate.			
		Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 Feb.			
<b>HB 302</b> Paleontological	Rep. Elison	This bill modifies the process to designate a state	Passed House	3	Neutral
Landmark		paleontological landmark; addresses ownership and	and Senate.		
Amendments		control of a state paleontological landmark; amends the	To Governor		
		permitting requirements to excavate on a privately			
		owned paleontological landmark.			
		Delica was difference allows the bands in the day of the bands in the			
		Primary difference allows site to be designated by the			
		board or by concurrent resolution of Leg & Governor.			
		Fiscal note received 19 Jan.			
		Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology			
		Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.			
		On House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar.			
		On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.			

HB 317 Energy Storage Amendments	Rep. Musselman	This bill directs the Office of Energy Development to study the feasibility and benefits of storing liquid fuel within the state; specifies study requirements and considerations; allows the Office of Energy Development to contract with consultants for the study; and requires a report of the study results and recommendations.  This bill only initiates a study but storing large amounts of liquid fuel is simply a high risk situation.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.  Sponsor position is that we need refined fuel at the ready to be stored in salt domes. State already has unrefined oil reserves this seems redundant and unnecessary.  Passed House to Senate.  Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	2	Oppose STUDY
HB353 Mining Operations Amendments	Rep. Bolinder	This bill modifies definition provisions; addresses judicial review; amends the process for approval of notice of intentions for large mining operations; addresses conversion between small and large mining operations; provides procedures for review of permit orders; clarifies the process of amending or revising a notice of intention.  Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	<u>Oppose</u>

		This bill severely limits the opportunity for local and public comment on large mining operations by reducing timeline for comment and defining what would be a "substantive public comment." All public comments are substantive by definition.			
Bills added Week 2	Dan Allenaalet	This bill accomplished for dead and accomplished and accomplished	Daniel Harris	2	0
HB363 Livestock Grazing Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	This bill recognizes a federal grazing permit or lease as a valid existing right in range management.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor.	2	Oppose
		Introduced at House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee, passed with favorable recommendation back to House on 29 Jan.			
		On House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading calendar.			
		Per committee discussion, this would have no impact on federal grazing permits at least without a legal battle. This would only have effect when federal lands are transferred back to the state, which is in discussion. The "right" would essentially mean the state could not prohibit grazing so long as ranchers desire to graze.  Sponsor arguments; 1) ranchers invest and maintain the grazing areas and actually create a more diverse environment and 2) power pathways were granted as existing rights to power companies so grazing should be for ranchers as well.			
		Current position on arguments 1) I will need to investigate; I am sure they maintain but is this beneficial and necessary (studies do not support grazing increases environmental diversity as general rule). On 2) power pathways serve large portions of general public, grazing does not.			
		Grazing should remain a permit and not a right.			

		Passed House. Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.			
HB373 Environmental	Rep. Snider	This bill specifies what acts under the Environmental	Passed House	2	Oppose
Quality Amendments	kep. Silidei	Quality Code require approval of the coordination	and Senate.	2	Oppose
Quality Amendments		council; addresses settlement agreements addressing	To Governor		
2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute		water quality; modifies the composition of the Air	10 dovernor		
2 Substitute		Quality Policy Advisory Board; addresses provisions			
		related to pollution control; modifies the powers of the			
		coordination council; and makes technical and			
		conforming amendments.			
		Adds members of fuel and manufacturing industry to Air Quality Council.			
		Significant changes on a second substitution. Essentially changes to an informal advisory group between the Legislature and the Div of Env Quality. Also, clarifies a tax credit.			
		Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.			
		Passed House to Senate.			
		2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute by Rep. Jimenez repeals the Air Quality			
		Advisory board for an informal advisory board. Switch			
		to Oppose.			
<b>HB374</b> State Energy	Rep. Jack	This bill provides that the state energy policy: is focused	Passed House	3	Neutral
Policy Amendments		on human well-being and quality of life; encourages the	and Senate.		
		use of dispatchable energy resources; fosters innovation	To Governor		
1 <sup>st</sup> substitute		and development to meet future energy demand; and			
		allows for market-based solutions; and requires the			
		Office of Energy Development to report annually to the			

		Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee regarding:  • development and implementation of the state energy plan; and  • the state energy plan's compliance with the state energy policy.  Bill outlines attributes of energy resources that are ranked in priority but affordable and sustainable are 4 and 5 on the list.  I remain Neutral. While the bill does explicitly mention "nuclear" as an energy option I see the language encouraging clean and renewable energy much stronger than in unamended bill.			
HB382 Wildlife Amendments  1st substitute	Rep. Snider	This bill primary makes changes to laws regulating hunting and penalties for illegal game taking.  However, the final section 23A-12-102 requires the Division of Wildlife resources to advocate against the changing of "eponymous bird names." This is unnecessary and a waste or resources. Oppose unless this section is removed.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Oppose section 23A-12- 102
HB401 Water Usage	Rep. Owens	Introduced to House.  Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.  This bill addresses the irrigating of lawn or turf in	House	1	Support
Amendments	nep. Owens	specified counties during a restricted period; imposes fines for an infraction; provides exceptions; addresses scope of provision; and requires a good faith estimate of water savings.  Prohibits lawn watering in certain counties from October 1 to April 30.	Committee Not Considered	1	зиррогі

		Assigned to House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee. Not considered.			
HB407 Eminent Domain Modifications	Rep. Bolinder	This bill addresses when eminent domain related to mining is prohibited.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	2	<u>Oppose</u>
		More mining facilitation and protection.			
		Sponsor clarified in Senate Committee that this applies			
		to one mining operation vs another mining operation			
		and does not diminish eminent domain for			
HB409 Presumption of	Rep. Ivory	municipality/state. This strengthens mining operators.  This bill establishes that jurisdiction over subject	House Failed	2	Oppose
State Jurisdiction	nep. Ivory	matters not enumerated to the federal government in	riouse runeu	2	Оррозс
Amendments		the United States Constitution remains with the state of			
		Utah; provides that any presumption against state			
1 <sup>st</sup> Substitution		jurisdiction is overcome only by a federal demonstration			
		of specific constitutional authorization; places the			
		burden on the federal government in disputes over non- enumerated jurisdiction; establishes a presumption that			
		federal government has a proprietary interest			
		over federal lands in the state; and requires the			
		Federalism Commission to provide time to hear from			
		governmental entities regarding jurisdictional disputes			
		over federal lands.			
		House Introduced.			
		Assigned to House Judiciary Committee.			
		1 <sup>st</sup> Substitution adds in the existing process of			
		"Coordination" to the bill. Oppose as bill does not			
		implement any specific new regulations/procedures and			
HB410 San Rafael State	Rep. Watkins	appears a bill "for show."  This bill: establishes the San Rafael Energy Research	Passed House	2	Neutral
Energy Lab	Tiep. Watkins	Center; creates the State Energy Lab; establishes the	and Senate.	_	Neatiai
		membership and duties of the board; outlines the	To Governor		
		purpose and duties of the center; and establishes a			
		project proposal solicitation and approval process.			

		Passed House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology			
		Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.			
		Bill acquires existing clean energy research lab, that is to			
		close, and creates state lab.			
Bills added Week 3		diose) and diedees state ide			
HB433 Brine	Rep. Bolinder	This bill grants rulemaking authority; provides for the	Passed House	1	Oppose
Amendments		designation of multiple mineral development areas;	and Senate.		
		addresses notice of intention requirements related to	To Governor		STUDY
2 <sup>nd</sup> Substitute		brine mining operations in multiple mineral			
		development areas; addresses cooperative			
		agreements; requires a study related to brine mining			
		operations and a report of the study; and permits the			
		selection of a consultant.			
		While this bill declares these development areas are			
		"use of a production well not involving operations on			
		the Great Salt Lake" it does not define what "on the			
		Great Salt Lake" means. Wetlands? Plus facilitates			
		more mining operations.			
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Substitute eliminates key regulatory powers for the			
		Division - (particularly on requiring co-operative			
		agreements) and exempts specific mining operations			
		that were in process. Amended to satisfy large mining			
		operation. REMAIN OPPOSED.			
HB448 State Water	Rep. Ward	This bill requires the Division of Water Resources	Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1	Support
Program Reporting		(division) to monitor state legislative water optimization	reading		
Requirements		efforts; requires the division to work with other state			
		entities; directs the division to annually report specific			
		findings; specifies the legislative committees to which			
		the report is to be given; requires posting of the			
		report; requires state agencies to assist upon request;			
		provides a sunset date.			
		Requires annual reporting on progress of water			
		optimization projects created by the legislature.			
		optimization projects created by the legislature.			

HB452 Carbon Capture Amendments	Rep. Chew	This bill repeals two existing funds and replaces the repealed funds with the Carbon Dioxide Storage Fund (fund); addresses the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining's (board) authority to impose fees and deposit money into the fund; addresses the holding of title by the state of storage facilities including oversight of facilities used to store carbon dioxide after the board issues a certificate of project completion; clarifies fee provisions.  House introduced.  This bill amends existing legislation and gives the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining authority to issue penalties and collect fees on carbon sequestration facilities. The fees/penalties are collected into a fund that the board can access to offset expense of monitor carbon sequestration.  Carbon capture is a means to store for other uses CO2 that would go direct to atmosphere. Given the beneficial nature of carbon capture I have changed to SUPPORT.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	2	Support
HB453 Great Salt Lake Revisions  4th Substitute	Rep. Snider	This bill modifies provisions related to severance taxes; exempts challenges to a distribution management plan from the Administrative Procedures Act; addresses mineral lease and royalty agreement provisions, including: setting production limits; providing for the loss of certain rights for failure to use; providing for royalty discounts under certain circumstances; and providing for small projects; enacts the Great Salt Lake Preservation Act, including: addressing management responsibilities; requiring certain provisions within royalty agreements; providing for acquisition of property interests or mineral estates, including through eminent domain; requiring payment of royalties; and addressing the Great Salt Lake as a multiple mineral development area enacts the Great Salt Lake Distribution Management chapter,	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Support

		including: directing the state engineer to develop a Great Salt Lake distribution management plan related to water rights; providing for challenges to a distribution management plan; addressing the measurement of the volume and quality of water; and addressing the scope of the chapter; modifies provisions related to local watershed councils and the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council; addresses rulemaking; addresses eminent domain.  General support for this legislation.  2nd Substitute changes are primarily technical and do not reduce overall impact of the bill.  4th substitute is compromise with mining industry and reduces the severance tax on mining companies that use more water-wise extraction or no water at all. Overall benefit of the bill still remains positive with the inclusion of the mining industry in water conservation measures and the severance tax that will be used for GSL.			
Bills added Week 4  HB471 Public Lands Possession Amendments	Rep. Lyman	This bill asserts ownership and jurisdiction over roads included on a county's class B and class D road map or a county travel plan unless the road has been closed through proper adjudicative proceedings; allows the state or a county to disregard any attempted closure of a road without due process; asserts that the burden of proof to show the need to close a road or to claim ownership falls on the federal government.  Appears another avenue to challenge federal management/authority on federal lands.  Public opposition from individuals only.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	2	Oppose
HB472 Water Revisions  1st Substitute	Rep. King	This bill directs the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Water Rights (divisions) to jointly study the creation of a water database and center; permits	Senate Committee	1	Support

		agreements with governmental entities for cooperation in the study; outlines with whom the divisions may consult; requires reporting on the study; provides a sunset date.  1st substitute was submitted by Rep. King and			
HB496 Public Land Use Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	strengthens requirements of the study.  This bill requires the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office to recognize and promote principles of multiple use and sustained yield on federal public lands within the state; and prohibits natural asset companies from purchasing or leasing state public lands.  Simply a bill to prohibit any land from not being available for mining, grazing, etc.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	<u>Oppose</u>
HB502 Critical Infrastructure and Mining  1st substitute	Rep. Snider	No public opposition presented at Senate committee.  This bill addresses the treatment of critical infrastructure materials operations and mining operations by political subdivisions; requires counties to adopt plans related to critical infrastructure materials; and requires reporting.  This billing limits a local government's ability to stop a mining operation and particularly if that operation has already started. So, this facilitates mine expansion and new mining.  Assigned to House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Oppose STUDY
		1 <sup>st</sup> Substitute removes all mandates and transitions to a study of necessary aggregates and appropriate means to acquire needed aggregates.  Still public concern on construct of board members (industry only) and short time period to complete the study.			

HB507 Construction Amendments  2nd substitute	Rep. Musselman	This bill authorizes the Division of Water Quality to implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants from construction sites impacting storm water runoff; establishes standards regarding the issuance of a permit; and establishes penalties for non-compliance.  2 <sup>nd</sup> substitute makes technical changes and does impact overall intent of bill.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Support
HB516 State Land Purchase Amendments	Rep. Pierrucci	This modifies the definition of restricted foreign entity to prevent the following entities from obtaining an interest in land in the state: an entity that is owned or directly controlled by the government of China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia; and an entity in which a restricted foreign entity owns a majority interest; requires that a restricted foreign entity alienate any interest in the state within one year; requires that the Department of Public Safety: maintain a publicly available list of restricted foreign entities; create a process for reporting a land conveyance to a restricted foreign entity; provide an annual notice regarding restricted foreign entities to each county auditor in the state; and investigate any conveyance to a restricted foreign entity; describes the duties of a county recorder in relation to restricted foreign entities; and provides the Division of Facilities Construction and Management authority to sell an interest in land that a restricted foreign entity fails to timely alienate.  On agenda for House Government Operations Committee on 20 Feb.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	3	Neutral
HB519 Department of Natural Resources Modifications	Rep. Snider	This bill clarifies that the Species Protection Account is administered by the Division of Wildlife Resources; modifies requirements related to the off-highway vehicle safety education and training program; changes	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	<u>Oppose</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment		how the off-highway vehicle safety user fee is set and allows the Division of Outdoor Recreation to collect an electronic payment fee; clarifies provisions related to the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office; repeals a			

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		provision related to actions brought to a district court			
		challenging a groundwater management plan; repeals a			
		requirement that the Board of Water Resources			
		establish a benefit to cost ratio for certain water			
		projects; repeals the definition of "species			
		protection"; repeals a provision requiring the Utah			
		Geological Survey to seek federal funds and administer			
		federally funded state programs related to			
		energy; modifies provisions related to the director of			
		the Office of Energy Development and removes			
		references to energy advisor;			
		clarifies the status of an employee of the Office of			
		Energy Development; repeals a requirement that the			
		governor approve the purchase or acceptance of			
		property by the Division of Outdoor Recreation; repeals			
		a requirement that 10% of certain expenditures by the			
		Board of Water Resources be allocated for credit			
		enhancement and interest buy-down			
		agreements; clarifies that the Division of Outdoor			
		Recreation has duties related to a contingency plan for			
		federal property during a fiscal emergency; repeals			
		outdated language, including appropriation language.			
		Bill language reduces the financial oversight on water			
		projects (that use collected state taxes.) Would appear			
		to remove another barrier to questionable water			
		development projects.			
		During House Committee debate DNR director testified			
		that language does not eliminate requirements for cost			
		benefit analysis for all projects but eliminate for			
		regulatory required projects only. Rep Owens made			
		certain that statement by the director was on record.			
HB520 Fallow Land	Rep. Kyle	This bill clarifies that land allowed to lay fallow or	Passed House	3	Neutral
Amendments		uncultivated for agricultural purposes qualifies for	and Senate.		
		agricultural and urban farming assessment; allows a	To Governor		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Substitution		county assessor to require the owner of fallow land to			
		prepare and submit a land management plan with			

		certain information and limitations; and disqualifies fallow land from agricultural and urban farming assessment if the owner fails to comply with any land management plan requirements.			
HB524 Water Interests Study	Rep. Eliason	This bill requires the state engineer to study issues related to conveyances of water interests related to residential buildings; and requires reporting.  On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.	Passed House Committee 21 Feb House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading	2	Neutral
Bills added Week 5  HB525 Agricultural Amendments	Rep. Dailey-Provost	This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Food (the department) to study the barriers and gaps related to increasing the availability of local food in the state; and requires the department to report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and the Environment Interim Committee.  Study of local agriculture.	Senate 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	3	Neutral
HB535 Water Conservation Modifications  1st Substitute	Rep. Kohler	This bill requires the Great Salt Lake commissioner (commissioner) to conduct a study concerning municipal water; directs the commissioner to consult with certain persons in conducting the study; requires that the commissioner publish the study findings; requires reporting.  1st substitute makes minor changes.	Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	1	Support
HB552 Pollution Control Amendments	Rep. Spendlove	This bill addresses provisions related to pollution control.  Broadens the type of pollution control facility that can receive tax credits.	Assigned to House Committee	2	Support

SB 16 Motor Vehicle Act Amendments	Sen. Harper	This bill allows the Division of Motor Vehicles to provide title to certain off-highway vehicles; defines terms and amends the definitions of certain motor vehicles; amends a provision to allow certain motor vehicles to emit visible contaminants.  Passed Senate and House. On Senate Concurrent calendar.  Some questions on Support position. My read, bill	Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR	2	Support
		relocates definitions but more specifically gives DMV authority to site ORV that have visible emissions outside a warm up time. This was not clear in existing law.  Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.			
SB 17 Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension	Sen. Sandall	This bill extends the sunset date for the Safe Drinking Water Act.  Passed Senate and House, to GOVERNOR.	Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR	1	Support
SB 18 Water Modifications	Sen. Sandall	This bill modifies forfeiture provisions in relation to saved water; grants rulemaking authority related to saved water; addresses changes to a water right in relation to saved water; provides for proofs related to saved water; addresses certificates of appropriation in relation to saved water; modifies provisions related to segregation and saved water; clarifies language related to agricultural water optimization and saved water; repeals certain language related to agricultural water optimization.  Bill does not completely address needs to ensure saved water properly but makes several significant steps.  Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for 23 Jan '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.  Minimal debate by committee.	Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.	1	Support

		Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 7 Feb.  Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.			
SB 20 Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board Amendments	Sen. Sandall	This bill extends the sunset date of the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board from 2024 to 2034.  Passed Senate to House.  House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.  Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.	Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR	3	Neutral
SB 28 Scenic Byway Program Amendments  1st Substitute	Sen. Harper	This bill restructures how a highway is designated as a state scenic byway and how a state scenic byway designation is removed; restructures how a highway or state scenic byway is nominated as a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road; repeals the Utah State Scenic Byway Committee and assigns certain responsibilities of the former Utah State Scenic Byway Committee to a temporary committee and the Transportation Commission; requires the Department of Transportation and the Utah Office of Tourism to coordinate to prioritize projects for federal grants related to scenic byways and make recommendations to the Transportation Commission for final approval.  Significant modification to first substitute but importantly removes the member of the billboard industry from the committee and adds the legislature via concurrent resolution for approval above the committee.	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	2	Neutral

SB 39 Water	Sen. Sandall	Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.  On agenda for House Transportation Committee on 21 Feb.  This bill addresses the timing of a water company's	SIGNED	3	Neutral
Shareholder Amendments		response to a shareholder's proposed change application.  Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.  Jan 23, Passed Senate to House.  Passed House Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.  On House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar.  Passed Senate and House. To Governor.  Signed by Governor.			
SB 55 Bear Lake Preservation Amendments	Sen. Wilson	This bill defines certain principles of the Bear Lake that are associated with its environmental and recreational uniqueness and value. It also requires development be consistent with these principles.  Expecting a substitution that may not be favorable.	Senate Committee	2	<u>Neutral</u>
SB 57 Utah Constitutional Sovereignty Act	Sen. Sandall	This bill establishes a framework for the Legislature, by concurrent resolution, to prohibit the enforcement of a federal directive within the state by government officers if the Legislature determines the federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty; describes the ways in which a federal directive violates the principles of state sovereignty; limits the authority for	SIGNED	3	Oppose

		requesting a concurrent resolution under the bill; requires the Legislature to consult with the attorney general regarding the potential impact of a concurrent resolution on litigation; specifies the required contents of a concurrent resolution; clarifies the effects of a concurrent resolution upon adoption; establishes requirements for the termination of a concurrent resolution; and clarifies the effects of legislative inaction on a federal directive.  Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.  Sen. Sandall positions bill as process only. Sen. Blouin expressed position that the Governor already has this capability.  This is not specifically environmentally focus so priority lowered.  Passed Senate to House. House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.  Passed House. SIGNED by GOVERNOR.			
SB 67 Public Thoroughfare Amendments  2nd Substitution	Sen. Sandall	This bill amends provisions related to public use of a private road to establish the road as a public thoroughfare, including: a requirement of 10 years of continuous use in the most recent 30-year period to establish and maintain a public thoroughfare; and clarification that a road returns to private ownership if continuous use ceases; clarifies that eminent domain powers are not impacted by the changes in this bill.  Allows private owners to more easily block access to designated public road ways.	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	3	Neutral

		Interestingly this bill is strongly opposed by ORV/ATV groups as roads primarily impacted would be roads they use. However, these are also roads, across private land, to access federal wilderness lands. Remain Oppose, not in favor a ORV but could limit other access as well.  2nd substitution changed language to "if public has not used listed road in last 50 years" reverts back to owner's private land, so in the end Neutral on this passed version.			
SB 75 Mineral Amendments  3rd Substitution	Sen. Owens	This bill amends definitions; modifies aggregate value of tax credit certificates that may be issued under certain circumstances; addresses federal agency consultation before certain acts related to federal designations and minerals.	House Rules due to Fiscal Note	3	Oppose
		Expands availability of existing tax credit for certain mining operations. Does not apply to mining in GSL and SITLA, those are not part of the existing tax credit. Sen. Blouin expressed concern with the federal consultation felt there were other mechanisms to address.  Position. OPPOSE as this is an incentive for expanding mining operations.  3 <sup>rd</sup> substitution adds stronger language to exempt			
CD 77 Water Dighte	Sen. Sandall	mining in "on the GSL" but does not change the incentive structure for mining.	Passed Senate	1	Cupport
SB 77 Water Rights Restricted Account Amendments	Sell. Salludli	This bill modifies the purposes for which money in the Water Rights Restricted Account may be expended.  Adds water measuring equipment and cost sharing on stream gauges to purpose of the fund.	and House. To GOVERNOR	1	Support
		Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.			

Bills added Week 1		Jan 23, Passed Senate to House. House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading.  Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.  On House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar.  Passed Senate and House. To Governor.			
SB113 Disposition of State Property Amendments	Sen. Buxton	This bill modifies provisions related to the sale, long-term lease, or other disposition of real property, water rights, or water shares associated with the Utah State Developmental Center; modifies the duties and the authority of the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (division); modifies provisions related to the purchase or exchange of division-owned real property.  Deals specifically with land that was granted to the Developmental Center. Changes decision on land from Developmental Center board to Div of Facilities and Construction.  Low priority, but change to Oppose from Watch as bill seems a play to take control of the land from the Center.  Bill substituted and amended. New bill leaves authority with developmental center.  Passed Senate to House.  On agenda for House Government Operations Committee on 20 Feb	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	3	Neutral
SB118 Water Efficiency Amendments	Sen. McKell	This bill provides for developer incentives to use water efficient landscaping in new residential development; grants rulemaking authority.	Passed House Committee, 22 Feb	2	Support

4 <sup>th</sup> substitute					
4 Substitute		Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.	To House Rules due to fiscal impact		
		Passed Senate to House.			
		On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.			
		4 <sup>th</sup> and prior substitute provide more detail definition of eligible housing types. Not material to the impact of the bill.			
SB125 Secondary Water Amendments	Sen. Hinkins	This bill modifies who may meter at strategic points of a system as approved by the state engineer.	Passed Senate and House.	1	Oppose
1 <sup>st</sup> Substitute		Makes one change in qualification for strategic metering raising water user from 1000 to 2500.	Senate To Governor		
		Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for 23 Jan '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.			
		Position changed to Oppose. This is a step backward meaning more unmetered secondary water that should go to GSL. Also, change being made based on two complaints to Sen. Hinkins.			
		Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar, CIRCLED.			
		I have seen opinion coalesce against this change, appears the bill will now exempt only water providers outside the GSL Basin. Does not seem wise to continue to create in legislation a "not our problem" excuse for regions outside the GSL Basin. GSL condition is a state level catastrophe.			

Bills added Week 2  SB142 Lawn Equipment Tax Credit Amendments	Sen. Pitcher	1st substitute retains 2500 user requirement for larger cities and changes to 1000 users for smaller rural cities.  This bill enacts a nonrefundable income tax credit for sellers that sell new, electric-powered lawn equipment at a discount; requires a seller that intends to claim the tax credit to report information about sales to the State Tax Commission; schedules the repeal of the tax credit but requires legislative review before repeal.	Senate Committee Not Considered	2	Support
SB153 Idling Amendments	Sen. Blouin	This bill allows certain local highway authorities to enact an ordinance to prohibit or restrict certain commercial vehicles from idling; allows an individual who reports an idling violation or certain other emissions violations to receive a reward for reporting the violation; allows an ordinance to include increased penalties for violations during times when air quality is unsafe for sensitive groups; exempts from an idling ordinance certain vehicles owned or operated by a government entity; allows an exemption from an idling ordinance certain commercial vehicles if the functional purpose of the vehicle might require idling; allows a person to purchase an exemption for a fleet of vehicles in certain circumstances; allows a local highway authority to impose a road usage charge for road usage during times when air quality is unsafe for sensitive groups.  **Assigned to Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.**	Senate Committee HELD	2	Support
SB161 Energy Security Amendments  5th Substitute	Sen. Owens	This bill requires a project entity to provide notice to the Public Service Commission (commission) before decommissioning an electrical generation facility; outlines a process for the commission to determine and provide the fair market value of an electrical generation facility intended for commissioning; requires a project entity to offer an electrical generation facility intended for decommissioning for sale at fair market value before	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	2	Oppose

		decommissioning; allows the state the option to			
		-			
		purchase an electrical generation facility intended			
		for decommissioning if no buyer purchases at full fair			
		market value; amends provisions related to air quality			
		permits for a project entity that owns an electrical			
		generation facility with multiple generating units and is			
		transitioning to a new electrical generation			
		facility; allows the project entity to apply for an			
		alternative permit to keep one or more existing			
		generating units in operation during the transition, if			
		the project entity has a transition permit requiring			
		closure of all existing units; and outlines the review			
		process for an alternative permit and conditions for			
		either the alternative or transition permit to become			
		effective.			
		First read, this is another bill that could complicate the			
		decommissioning of inefficient power plants.			
		decommissioning of megacient power plants.			
		Per sponsor this is a specific bill to save a particular			
		power plant and local jobs.			
		Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and			
		Environment Committee with favorable			
		recommendation.			
		On House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading calendar.			
		Several substitutes to this bill but does not diminish bill			
		objective to keep aged coal systems operating. Most			
		changes at request of power generator – Intermountain			
		Power Agency.			
SB170 Clean Truck	Sen. Ipson	This bill creates a grant program within the Division of	Senate	2	Support
Incentive Program		Air Quality for eligible purchasers of clean trucks; directs	Committee		
		the division to provide grants from the Environmental	Not Considered		
		Mitigation and Response Fund; allows the division to			
		replenish the Environmental Mitigation and Response			
		Fund with money from federal programs; outlines the			

Revisions	Sen. Hinkins	incentives available to eligible purchasers through the program; requires the division to coordinate with the Department of Transportation in using federal funds for the program; requires the division to make a recommendation to the Air Quality Board relating to the regulation of medium or heavy duty vehicles.  This bill addresses general land use authority; addresses vested critical infrastructure materials protection operations, including repealing redundant language; modifies provisions related to filing declarations; provides for the rights of a critical infrastructure materials operator; amends provisions related to the critical infrastructure materials protection area advisory board; addresses the creation of a critical infrastructure materials protection area; repeals authority to establish a minimum number of continuous acres that may be included in a protection area; outlines the notice of a proposal to create a protection area; addresses public hearing requirements; modifies criteria to be considered in creating a protection area; amends process to add land or remove land from a protection area; modifies effects of annexation; limits powers related to review of protection areas; addresses limitations on local regulations; addresses nuisance; modifies the policy for state agencies; amends restrictions related to eminent domain; addresses vested mining uses.  Extensive existing legislation and this bill makes numerous changes. First read, another means to "fence off" mining, ag/ranching, etc lands from other use.  Assigned to Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee.  Fiscal note received, sent back to Senate Rules.  This bill makes technical changes throughout various	Senate Committee	3	Oppose
Amendments	· · · · · · · · · · · · ·	sections to clean up cross references and remove	and Senate.	_	

SB191 Grid Enhancing Technologies	Sen. Blouin	outdated language; amends the definition of a snowmobile; prohibits the storage of flammable, explosive, or combustible materials near or beneath certain highway and public transit facilities; amends provisions regarding the use of certain funds for public transit studies; amends the descriptions of highways near certain state parks; amends a provision related to required matching funds to qualify for certain transportation funding to exclude projects administered by the Department of Transportation; amends the definition of abandoned aircraft.  This bill establishes a grid enhancing technologies program to incentivize electric utilities to deploy technologies that increase transmission system capacity, efficiency, and reliability; requires utilities to analyze grid enhancing technologies as alternatives in transmission infrastructure proceedings; allows cost recovery and incentives for grid enhancing technology deployments approved by the Public Service Commission (commission); provides for expedited review for local permits for grid enhancing technology transmission line projects; and provides the commission with rulemaking authority to administer incentives for the implementation of grid enhancing technology.  First Substitute introduced that maintains the incentive for grid enhancing technology but essentially eliminates the reporting and monitoring requirements of the Introduced bill. Still a step forward to upgrading to latest grid technologies on existing power transmission lines.	Passed Senate to House House 1st reading	2	Support
Bills Added Week 4 SB195 Golf Course	Sen. McCay	This bill makes water data regarding golf courses a	House Failed	2	Oppose
Amendments		protected record under Government Records Access and Management Act; requires a study of water use by			

SB196 Great Salt Lake Amendments  1st substitution	Sen. Blouin	golf courses; creates an advisory board related to golf that is subject to a sunset date.  Appears overall positive to study water use at golf courses, need to understand the protecting of the water data.  Water data protection is only for data collected in the study. Public golf course water is currently available.  Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.  Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading. CIRCLED.  Change in position. Research of other organizations believe this would exempt all water use data going forward and not just the data collected in the study.  This directs the Great Salt Lake Commissioner to make a plan and conduct a pilot program to address wet water years; requires reporting.  Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.  Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading calendar.  1 <sup>st</sup> substitution does not impact the intent of the bill but clarifies a number of points for the GSL commissioner to include as part of the plan.	Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading CIRCLED	1	Support
SB203 Drinking Water Amendments	Sen. Sandall	This bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a fee schedule; outlines requirements related to the fee schedule; allows for	Passed House Committee 26 Feb	2	Neutral
1 <sup>st</sup> Substitute		fees to be set to establish a financial incentive to comply with certain criteria; provides for the collection of	House 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading		

		fees; provides that the fees are treated as dedicated			
		credits; and requires monitoring of fees.			
		Will result in increased fee on drinking water.			
SB211 Generational	Sen. Adams	This directs the creation of the Water District Water	Passed Senate	1	Oppose
Water Infrastructure		Development Council (council) under the Interlocal	and House.		
Amendments		Cooperation Act; outlines restrictions on the	To Governor		
		council; provides for the powers and duties of the			
		council; requires reporting by the council; requires			
		consultation by the council; provides for access to			
		documents of state or local agencies; amends provisions			
		related to meetings and records of the			
		council; addresses the powers and duties of the Board			
		of Water Resources and the Division of Water			
		Resources; addresses expenditures from the Water			
		Infrastructure Restricted Account; provides for the			
		appointment of the Utah water agent (water			
		agent); provides for the powers and duties of the water			
		agent; requires reporting by the water agent; requires			
		consultation by the water agent; addresses negotiations			
		of the water agent; amends provisions related to			
		procurement and records of the water agent; addresses			
		access to documents of state or local agencies; includes			
		a sunset date regarding the water agent; and makes			
		technical and conforming changes.			
		Bill was substituted and amended. Amended language			
		was offered by Democratic Caucus and clarifies advisory			
		nature of council and no authority to make policy or			
		control money. Passed Senate with only NAY from			
		Senator Blouin.			
		Position remains OPPOSE despite the language offered			
		from Dem Caucus as language is no real impact to the			
		transparency elements of the council and agent			
		positions.			

		Minimal debate in committee, bill maintains strong legislative support.  Representative Doug Owens came out in committee in Support of this bill.  Utah Rivers Council and Sierra club made public opposition to the bill in House committee particular the public reporting exemptions for the council and water agent.			
Independence Amendments  1st Substitute	Sen. Sandall	This bill modifies the factors the Public Service Commission (commission) must consider when evaluating certain proposed energy resource decisions; establishes parameters for an affected electrical utility's recovery of costs associated with proven dispatchable generation resources located within the state; encourages the commission to evaluate the purchase of excess proven dispatchable generation capacity; allows an electrical corporation to create a Utah fire fund to supplement other insurance for making certain fire damage payments; establishes requirements for administration, funding, and access to a Utah fire fund; and enacts provisions related to filing and resolving claims against an electrical corporation for damages caused by wildfire.  Language for "dispatchable energy" is ambiguous and broad enough to suggest this would facilitate maintaining existing inefficient coal burning plants or additional power generation facilities and types perhaps nuclear. State also makes commitment to purchase excess energy from these coal facilities that comes available as other states stop purchasing from coal plants.  Passes cost of liability insurance to users.  1st substitute does not change overall impact of bill.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Oppose

Bills Added Week 5					
SB242 Utah Lake Modifications	Sen. McKell	This bill repeals the Utah Lake Restoration Act; repeals the provisions related to the Utah Lake Diking Project.  Repeals of the act and provisions for diking at Utah Lake very positive.  Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Support
Dillo Added Medic		Committee on 16 Feb.			
SB257 Geothermal Energy Production Amendments  1st Substitute	Sen. Blouin	This bill requires the Office of Energy Development to conduct a geothermal resources study; and creates the Utah Geothermal Task Force.	Passed Senate Committee 22 Feb	2	Support
		1 <sup>st</sup> substitute transition to study only for geothermal energy incentives.	Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading.		
SB264 Inland Port Authority Amendments Amended	Sen. Stevenson	This bill makes the Utah Inland Port Authority subject to the Utah Industrial Facilities and Development Act; modifies limitations on board members; modifies notice requirements for a project area plan; prohibits the authority from paying certain developer costs associated with the construction of public infrastructure and improvements in a project area; provides that the base taxable value of project area land applies to land added to the project area; modifies provisions relating to the distribution of sales tax revenue; and removes a condition applicable to the authority's creation of a remediation project area.  This bill further expands the authorities and responsibilities of the Utah Inland Port Authority.  Despite poor project completion history of the UIPA this actually adds an additional project.  Amendment has no impact to overall bill.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	<u>Oppose</u>

		Significant public opposition during Senate committee debate.			
SB270 Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake Study Amendments  1st Substitute	Sen. Bramble	This bill requires the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) to conduct a study meeting certain requirements; requires the division to develop an implementation plan; requires reporting; provides a sunset date.	Passed House and Senate. To Governor	1	Oppose STUDY
		1 <sup>st</sup> substitute diminishes impact of the overall bill by removing the "Implementation Plan" element for a study with proposal plan. And, adding language that essentially requires deference to the water rights and water projects that currently exist.			
		I have switched position to OPPOSE as there does seem to be some language in the bill that would keep open some very controversial ideas for managing Utah lake. Will need to monitor if passed.			