

# UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2024 General Legislative Session

Week #2

January 27, 2024

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### 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: [strauchmail@yahoo.com](mailto:strauchmail@yahoo.com).

### 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 [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov). 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

Representative Casey Sniders HB280 Water Related Changes is on the agenda for the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for Monday 29 January. This is a significant bill that most critically creates a new centralized council for managing water infrastructure projects. This would take the authority from the local government authorities. Question of why this is needed...what problem it solves.

TIME TO CONTACT YOUR SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE and let them know that the following bills are simply not necessary (see notes in each bills section below).

HB249 Utah Legal Personhood Amendments  
HB317 Energy Storage Amendments  
HB373 Environmental Quality Amendments  
HB382 Wildlife Amendments Section 23A-12-102  
SB57 Utah Constitutional Sovereignty Act  
SB125 Secondary Water Amendments

GSL Commissioner Brian Steed presented his appropriations request to the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Appropriations sub-committee. No additional details were

presented that were not presented previously. Continue to engage with your Senator and Representative asking how they plan to aid Commissioner Steed in his short-term action plans particularly getting water to the Great Salt Lake. I will continue to monitor appropriations with special attention on how the GSL Commissioner is spending his funds.

## BILL TRACKING LIST

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

Bill	Sponsor	Description/Status <i>Italics are UAC commentary/explanation</i> <i>Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.</i>	Priority	Position
<a href="#">HB 11</a> <b>Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements</b>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill restricts the use of lawn or turf by certain governmental entities.</p> <p><i>This bill is another step in reducing water use on ornamental lawns by Utah State entities.</i></p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House 26 Jan. to Senate.</i></p>	1	Support
<a href="#">HB 18</a> <b>Mineral Production Tax Withholding Amendments</b>	Rep. Bolinder	<p>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 the requirements for a producer to file a form 1099 with the State Tax Commission.</p> <p><i>The Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 23</a> <b>Division of Outdoor Recreation</b>	Rep. Brooks	<p>This bill extends the sunset date of the advisory council that advises the Division of Outdoor Recreation on boating policies from 2024 to 2029.</p>	3	Support

<b>Advisory Council Sunset Extension</b>		<i>The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.</i>		
<b><a href="#">HB 31</a> Agricultural Tourism Amendments</b>	Rep. Albrecht	<p>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 ag-tourism registry and describes requirements relating to the registry; modifies civil liability limitations in relation to an agricultural tourism activity.</p> <p><i>The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.</i></p> <p><i>Supports additional income for ag producers, means to insure they do not have to sell for development.</i></p>	3	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 42</a> Water Rights Publication Amendments</b>	Rep. Briscoe	<p>This bill permits the state engineer to confirm publication of a notice of application through electronic means.</p> <p><i>Passed from House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 23, '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p>	3	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 48</a> Utah Energy Act Amendments</b>	Rep. Jack	<p>This bill modifies reporting requirements for the Office of Energy Development; modifies the purposes of the Office of Energy Development to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing strategies to advocate for state interests on federal energy and environmental programs;</li> </ul>	2	Watch

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>overseeing legal strategy on federal overreach and permitting delays; and</li> <li>engaging in federal rulemaking and advocacy for regulatory reform;</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p><i>The Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p> <p><i>Concern, while this bill does add duties to OED that are positive for planning and transparency, it also gives it the authority to push back vs federal energy requirements.</i></p>		
<a href="#">HB 57</a> <b>Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments</b>	Rep. Brooks	<p>This bill repeals the Snake Valley Aquifer Council chapter, removes language citing provisions of that chapter, including: a sunset provision; and a provision related to the duties of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office.</p> <p><i>Agree that council is no longer needed given recent legal victories.</i></p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 61</a> <b>Water Measuring and Accounting Amendments</b>	Rep. Albrecht	<p>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.</p>	1	Support

		<p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">HB 62</a> Utah Water Ways Amendments</b>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill outlines coordination related to water and the public education system.</p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 18, 24 passed back to House with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Maintain SUPPORT until amendment seen.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	1	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 65</a> Active Transportation and Canal Trail Amendments</b>	Rep. Lesser	<p>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:</p>	2	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a canal trail toolkit;</li> <li>• inventory certain canals in the state;</li> <li>• consider creating a canal trail as part of the active transportation plan; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Maintain SUPPORT until amended.</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal note made public on 22 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>Remains HELD in committee.</i></p>		
<a href="#">HB 76</a> <b>State Resource Management Plan Amendments</b>	Rep. Stratton	<p>This bill adopts a state resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan.</p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate. 1<sup>st</sup> reading 24 Jan. in Senate</i></p>	3	Support
<a href="#">HB 90</a> <b>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Amendments</b>	Rep. Stenquist	<p>This bill simply relocates definitions of the current bill.</p> <p><i>Passed House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with Favorable Recommendation on 26 Jan</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 117</a> <b>Wind Energy Facility Siting Modifications</b>	Rep. Burton	<p>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</p>	3	Oppose

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>Concerns this could be used as a means to limited the building of wind energy facilities.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">HB 126</a> Emissions Regulation Amendments</b>	Rep. Stoddard	<p>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.</p> <p><i>On assigned list for House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.</i></p>	2	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 130</a> Animal Fighting Penalties</b>	Rep. Judkins	<p>This bill amends existing legislation and provide greater specificity to the definitions of dog and game fowl fighting and fighting paraphernalia.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 135</a> County Land Use Amendments</b>	Rep. Birkeland	<p>This bill removes text from existing legislation that specified actions to be taken prior to 31 December, 2022.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<b><a href="#">HB 151</a> Public Lands Amendments</b>	Rep. Ward	<p>This bill requires an inventory of public lands by each municipality and notification of interest in public lands.</p> <p><i>How would this information be used?</i></p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	2	Watch



<p><a href="#">HB 159</a> <b>Bears Ears Visitor Center Advisory Committee Repeal Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Owens</p>	<p>This bill removes the repeal date of the advisory committee.</p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> substitute introduced by Rep. Owens replaces repeal date of 31 Dec '24 to a sunset date of 31 Dec '34.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 191</a> <b>Electrical Energy Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Jack</p>	<p>This bill sets conditions for when the Public Service Commission may approve the early retirement of an electrical generation facility.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Oppose as written. Complicates decision by power providers to retire older power generating facilities.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee 29 Jan.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 195</a> <b>Land Use Planning Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Owens</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Support</p>

<a href="#">HB 222</a> <b>Wildlife Hunting Amendments</b>	Rep. Gricius	<p>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.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 232</a> <b>Outdoor Recreation Impacts Fund</b>	Rep. Stenquist	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	2	Support
<a href="#">HB 237</a> <b>Land Use Authority Amendments</b>	Rep. Walter	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Deals with aesthetic requirements of buildings only.</i></p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 241</a> <b>Clean Energy Amendment</b>	Rep. Albrecht	<p>This bill changes the term renewable to clean where appropriate in statute. Adds definitions of clean energy sources.</p>	3	Watch

		<p><i>Oppose as written. Identifies “nuclear” as clean energy source. Also establishes a “State Fair Park” agency, need to understand purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Passed in House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on 24 Jan. Passed with favorable recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">HB 242</a> Water Usage Data Amendments</b>	Rep. Ballard	<p>This bill requires that reporting of water usage by a 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.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	1	Support
<b><a href="#">HB 243</a> Riparian Amendments</b>	Rep. Bennion	<p>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 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.</p>	1	Support

		<i>On assigned list for House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.</i>		
<a href="#">HB249</a> <b>Utah Legal Personhood Amendments</b>	Rep. Brooks	<p>This bill prohibits a governmental entity from granting or recognizing legal personhood in certain categories of nonhumans.</p> <p><i>Sponsor states that this was a response to a “few of his constituents” expressing confusion that other countries or states have extended personhood rights to inanimate objects.</i></p> <p><i>Bill is obvious response to possible environmental rights strategies. Seems reactionary to wording “person” or “personhood.”</i></p>	1	Oppose
<a href="#">HB 256</a> <b>Military Compatible Land Use Amendments</b>	Rep. Peterson	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 262</a> <b>School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>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 <b>and mineral rights restrictions</b>; excludes certain lands from sale or lease; and requires rulemaking for determining the fair market value of trust lands.</p> <p><i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	1	Watch

		<i>Need to better understand the removal of the mineral rights restrictions.</i>		
<a href="#">HB 275</a> <b>Water Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	This bill clarifies who is eligible for grant money for water conservation efforts other than secondary water metering.  <i>House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i>  <i>1<sup>st</sup> substitute introduced. Improvement in that it further limits home association from requiring turf.</i>	1	Support
<a href="#">HB 279</a> <b>Air Quality Amendments</b>	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.  <i>Fiscal note received 22 Jan.</i>	2	Support
<b>Bills added Week 1</b>				
<a href="#">HB 280</a> <b>Water Related Changes</b>	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	1	Watch

		<p>planning and prioritization provisions, including: defining terms; requiring a unified water infrastructure plan; providing for ranking and prioritizing of water infrastructure projects; addressing duties; and requiring reserve studies and capital asset management.</p> <p><i>This build makes many and significant changes to existing legislation. Need to understand implications of changes.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee for Monday 29 Jan.</i></p>		
<p><a href="#">HB 291</a> <b>Department of Agriculture and Food Amendments</b></p>	Rep. Shipp	<p>This bill clarifies appointment provisions and reporting requirements for the Local Food Advisory Council; repeals certain requirements relating to the 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.</p> <p><i>This bill has multiple and various changes mostly technical. After further investigation, the changes appear to be of minimal impact. The McAllister Working</i></p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Farm and Ranch Fund is set up to purchase and preserve open land, primarily for Ag but does prevent construction.</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 18 Jan.</i></p>		
<a href="#">HB 295</a> <b>Produced Water Amendments</b>	Rep. Lund	<p>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.</p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	2	Support
<a href="#">HB 297</a> <b>Utah Bee Inspection Act Amendments</b>	Rep. Shipp	<p>Prohibits a state agency from making stricter bee keeping requirements on private property that are more restrictive than those stated in legislation.</p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 18 Jan.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<a href="#">HB 302</a> <b>Paleontological Landmark Amendments</b>	Rep. Elison	<p>This bill modifies the process to designate a state paleontological landmark; addresses ownership and control of a state paleontological landmark; amends the permitting requirements to excavate on a privately owned paleontological landmark.</p> <p><i>Primary difference allows site to be designated by the board or by concurrent resolution of Leg &amp; Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 19 Jan.</i></p>	3	Neutral

<p><a href="#">HB 317</a> <b>Energy Storage Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Musselman</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>This bill only initiates a study but storing large amounts of liquid fuel is simply a high risk situation.</i></p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><b>Bills added Week 2</b></p>				
<p><a href="#">HB373</a> <b>Environmental Quality Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Snider</p>	<p>This bill specifies what acts under the Environmental Quality Code require approval of the coordination council; addresses settlement agreements addressing water quality; modifies the composition of the Air Quality Policy Advisory Board; addresses provisions related to pollution control; modifies the powers of the coordination council; and makes technical and conforming amendments.</p> <p><i>Adds members of fuel and manufacturing industry to Air Quality Council.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><a href="#">HB374</a> <b>State Energy Policy Amendments</b></p>	<p>Rep. Jack</p>	<p>This bill provides that the state energy policy: is focused on human well-being and quality of life; encourages the use of dispatchable energy resources; fosters innovation and development to meet future energy demand; and allows for market-based solutions; and requires the</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Watch</p>



		Office of Energy Development to report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development and implementation of the state energy plan; and</li> <li>• the state energy plan's compliance with the state energy policy.</li> </ul>		
<a href="#">HB382</a> <b>Wildlife Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<i>This bill primary makes changes to laws regulating hunting and penalties for illegal game taking.</i>  <i>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 of resources. Oppose unless this section is removed.</i>	1	Oppose section 23A-12-102
<a href="#">HB401</a> <b>Water Usage Amendments</b>	Rep. Owens	This bill addresses the irrigating of lawn or turf in 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.  <i>Prohibits lawn watering in certain counties from October 1 to April 30.</i>	1	Support
<a href="#">HB410</a> <b>San Rafael State Energy Lab</b>	Rep. Watkins	This bill: establishes the San Rafael Energy Research Center; creates the State Energy Lab; establishes the membership and duties of the board; outlines the purpose and duties of the center; and establishes a project proposal solicitation and approval process.  <i>Will align with Clean Energy Utah.</i>	2	Watch
<a href="#">SB 16</a> <b>Motor Vehicle Act Amendments</b>	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;	2	Support

		<p>amends a provision to allow certain motor vehicles to emit visible contaminants.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">SB 17</a> Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill extends the sunset date for the Safe Drinking Water Act.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p> <p><i>On assigned list for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee.</i></p>	1	Support
<b><a href="#">SB 18</a> Water Modifications</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Bill does not completely address needs to ensure saved water properly but makes several significant steps.</i></p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for 23 Jan '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Minimal debate by committee.</i></p>	1	Support
<b><a href="#">SB 20</a> Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board Amendments</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill extends the sunset date of the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board from 2024 to 2034.</p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p> <p><i>House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.</i></p>		
<p><b><a href="#">SB 28</a> Scenic Byway Program Amendments</b></p>	Sen. Harper	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Adds a member of Billboard industry to Scenic Byway Committee.</i></p> <p><i>On assigned list for Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee.</i></p>	2	Oppose
<p><b><a href="#">SB 39</a> Water Shareholder Amendments</b></p>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill addresses the timing of a water company's response to a shareholder's proposed change application.</p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Jan 23, Passed Senate to House.</i></p>	3	Neutral

<p><a href="#">SB 55</a> <b>Bear Lake Preservation Amendments</b></p>	<p>Sen. Wilson</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Passed to Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee, not considered waiting first substitution.</i></p> <p><i>Expecting a substitution that may not be favorable.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Watch</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 57</a> <b>Utah Constitutional Sovereignty Act</b></p>	<p>Sen. Sandall</p>	<p>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 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.</p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Sen. Sandall positions bill as process only. Sen. Blouin expressed position that the Governor already has this capability.</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

		<p><i>This is not specifically environmentally focus so priority lowered.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House. House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">SB 67</a> Public Thoroughfare Amendments</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Allows private owners to more easily block access to designated public road ways.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	3	Oppose
<b><a href="#">SB 75</a> Mineral Amendments</b>	Sen. Owens	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	3	Oppose

		<p><i>Blouin expressed concern with the federal consultation felt there were other mechanisms to address.</i></p> <p><i>Position. OPPOSE as this is an incentive for expanding mining operations.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Circled.</i></p>		
<b><a href="#">SB 77</a> Water Rights Restricted Account Amendments</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill modifies the purposes for which money in the Water Rights Restricted Account may be expended.</p> <p><i>Adds water measuring equipment and cost sharing on stream gauges to purpose of the fund.</i></p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for Jan 17, 24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Jan 23, Passed Senate to House. House 1<sup>st</sup> reading.</i></p>	1	Support
<b>Bills added Week 1</b>				
<b><a href="#">SB113</a> Disposition of State Property Amendments</b>	Sen. Buxton	<p>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.</p> <p><i>On assigned list for Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee.</i></p>	2	Watch
<b><a href="#">SB118</a> Water Efficiency Amendments</b>	Sen. McKell	<p>This bill provides for developer incentives to use water efficient landscaping in new residential development; grants rulemaking authority.</p>	2	Support

		<i>On assigned list for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.</i>		
<a href="#">SB125</a> <b>Secondary Water Amendments</b>	Sen. Hinkins	<p>This bill modifies who may meter at strategic points of a system as approved by the state engineer.</p> <p><i>Makes one change in qualification for strategic metering raising water user from 1000 to 2500.</i></p> <p><i>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee agenda for 23 Jan '24 passed back to Senate with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	3	Oppose
<b>Bills added Week 2</b>				
<a href="#">SB142</a> <b>Lawn Equipment Tax Credit Amendments</b>	Sen. Pitcher	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.	2	Support
<a href="#">SB153</a> <b>Idling Amendments</b>	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	2	Support

		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.		
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