

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2024 General Legislative Session

Week #5

February 17, 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: 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. 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!

there are several water bills we Support that are stalled in the process:

Weekly Update

New Tracker Format...

FYI for all, I have modified the tracker slightly to, hopefully, clarify the information. For each bill, I will now set the Position to Support, Neutral, Oppose (no more Watch) as soon as the bill is entered on the tracker. Bills that I will Watch will be underlined. Watch means I will be following debates doing outside research to provide better information to either Support or Oppose. This way a Position will be clear from the start. Positions sometimes change as bills are substituted or amended but I will add that in the notes.

NEED YOUR CONTINUED ATTENTION

First,

SB211, Generational Water Infrastructure Amendments, Senate President Adams' bill, has already passed the Senate and moved to the House. The Senate Democratic caucus negotiated some additional language for the bill with President Adams. The language clarifies that the water planning council created in the bill is advisory, does not set policy and has no funding. However, this language

technically does not change the bill and does not address the transparency issues. Honestly, it was a means to allow the Democrats to vote YAY, with the only NAY from Sen. Nate Blouin who cited the transparency issues as his reason.

Now that the bill moves to the House there is still opportunity to engage your representative and let them know your position - OPPOSE this bill unless the transparency issues are addressed. Let your representative know this is the expectation ... not just additional clarifying language.

Also,

HB11 Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements
HB243 Riparian Amendments
SB195 Golf Course Amendments

HB11 and SB195 are stalled in the Senate so contact your Senators and let them know to move this forward.

HB243 has not made it out of the House as yet so make certain to contact your representative on this one as well.

THE MINING AGENDA

Bills that facilitate mining operations continue to move through the legislature and are getting more insidious. Additional and complex bills are being introduced that not only facilitate new mining operations but essentially make it near impossible to stop or stop the expansion of existing operations. HB502 is new to the tracker

but was introduced last week. There are probably a few other bills related to mining operations that I have not found yet.

HB353 Mining Operations Amendments
HB433 Brine Amendments
HB502 Critical Infrastructure and Mining
SB 75 Mineral Amendments
SB113 Disposition of State Property Amendments
SB172 Protection Areas Revisions

What is truly “interesting” is that we hear from the legislature all the time about “federal over-reach” yet these mining bills are taking decision making authority away from local leadership ... **seems like “state over-reach”.**

Mining is definitely a focus of the majority for this year.

Another busy week upcoming for bills on committee agendas. Listed below are bills that are Opposed that will be debated this week. I will definitely be paying attention to each.

HB433 Brine Amendments
HB519 Department of Natural Resources Modifications
SB113 Disposition of State Property Amendments
SB211 Generational Water Infrastructure Amendments

BILL TRACKING LIST

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

Bill	Sponsor	Description/Status <i>Italics are UAC commentary/explanation Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.</i>	Priority	Position
<u>HB 11</u> Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements	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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Business and Labor Committee with favorable recommendation on 31 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>Read in Senate. CIRCLED.</i></p> <p><i>Remains CIRCLED.</i></p>	1	Support
<u>HB 18</u> Mineral Production Tax Withholding Amendments	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</p>	3	Neutral

		<p>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>Passed House to Senate. Passed Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 3rd ready calendar. TABLED</i></p>		
<p>HB 23 Division of Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council Sunset Extension</p>	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> <p><i>The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill. In House for 2nd reading.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Support
<p>HB 31 Agricultural Tourism Amendments</p>	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 3rd 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

		<i>Passed Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 13 Feb.</i>		
HB 42 Water Rights Publication Amendments	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> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Support
HB 48 Utah Energy Act Amendments	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"> • developing strategies to advocate for state interests on federal energy and environmental programs; • overseeing legal strategy on federal overreach and permitting delays; and • engaging in federal rulemaking and advocacy for regulatory reform; <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 1st reading.</i></p>	2	Oppose

		<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> <p><i>House 3rd reading Calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Oppose lines that read “direct the funding of legal effort to combat federal overreach and unreasonable delays regarding energy and environmental permitting”</i></p> <p><i>Passed House.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.</i></p>		
HB 57 Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments	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> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Neutral
HB 61 Water Measuring and	Rep. Albrecht	<p>This bill modifies the state water policy to address telemetry; grants rulemaking authority regarding</p>	1	Support

<p>Accounting Amendments</p>		<p>measurement and accounting; and makes technical changes, including repealing outdated language.</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> <p><i>Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
<p>HB 62 Utah Water Ways Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Owens</p>	<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> <p><i>Passed House to Senate. Assigned to Senate Education Committee.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Support</p>

		<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Education Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 3rd reading. TABLED.</i></p>		
<p>HB 65 Active Transportation and Canal Trail Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Lesser</p>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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>2</p>	<p>Support</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>		
HB 76 State Resource Management Plan Amendments	Rep. Stratton	<p>This bill adopts a state resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan.</p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Support
HB 90 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Amendments	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> <p><i>Passed House. Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. On Concurrence calendar.</i></p>	3	Neutral
HB 117 Wind Energy Facility Siting Modifications	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 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>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Introduced to House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on 25 Jan. Passed with Favorable Recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate 1st reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 2nd reading. CIRCLED.</i></p>		
HB 126 Emissions Regulation Amendments	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>Remains on assigned list for House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.</i></p>	2	Support
HB 130 Animal Fighting Penalties	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>Passed House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 16 Feb.</i></p>	3	Support

HB 135 County Land Use Amendments	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 1st reading introduced.</i></p>	3	Oppose
HB 151 Public Lands Amendments	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 1st reading introduced.</i></p>	2	<u>Neutral</u>
HB 159 Bears Ears Visitor Center Advisory Committee Repeal Amendments	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill removes the repeal date of the advisory committee.</p> <p><i>1st substitute introduced by Rep. Owens replaces repeal date of 31 Dec '24 to a sunset date of 31 Dec '34.</i></p> <p><i>House 1st reading introduced.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Government Operations Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.</i></p>	2	Support
HB 191 Electrical Energy Amendments	Rep. Jack	<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</p>	2	<u>Neutral</u>

		<p>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><i>Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with Favorable Recommendation. On House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
HB 195 Land Use Planning Amendments	Rep. Owens	<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 1st reading introduced.</i></p>	1	Support

<p>HB 222 Wildlife Hunting Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Gricius</p>	<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>2nd substitute includes new language on sale of “big game by-product.”</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>HB 232 Outdoor Recreation Impacts Fund</p>	<p>Rep. Stenquist</p>	<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 1st reading introduced.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Revenue and Taxation Committee on with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB 237 Land Use Authority Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Walter</p>	<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</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

		<p>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>Assigned to House Political Subdivisions Committee.</i></p>		
<p>HB 241 Clean Energy Amendment</p>	Rep. Albrecht	<p>This bill changes the term renewable to clean where appropriate in statute. Adds definitions of clean energy sources.</p> <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> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Passed by Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate and House. On Concurrence calendar.</i></p>		
HB 242 Water Usage Data Amendments	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>HELD by House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>This is very reasonable collection of date across the state.</i></p> <p><i>HELD due to objections of rural reps.</i></p> <p><i>House 3rd reading.</i></p>	1	Support
HB 243 Riparian Amendments	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</p>	1	Support

		<p>related to riparian areas; directs the compilation of a riparian map.</p> <p><i>HELD by House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Remains HELD by committee.</i></p>		
<p>HB249 Utah Legal Personhood Amendments</p>	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 “<u>few of his constituents</u>” 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> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>	1	Oppose

		<p><i>Passed by Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>On Senate 2nd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
<p>HB 256 Military Compatible Land Use Amendments</p>	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> <p><i>Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<p>HB 262 School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments</p>	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 and mineral rights restrictions; excludes certain lands from sale or lease; and requires rulemaking for determining the fair market value of trust lands.</p> <p><i>House 1st reading.</i></p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Need to better understand the removal of the mineral rights restrictions.</i></p> <p><i>Substitute #1 removes the mineral rights restrictions. Strengthens the 5,000 acre minimum requirement. Not a requirement to SITLA but an option.</i></p> <p><i>Reduced priority as this is very limited scope as SITLA has very few parcels of this size.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 7 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. Assigned to Senate Labor and Taxation Committee.</i></p>		
HB 275 Water Amendments	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill clarifies who is eligible for grant money for water conservation efforts other than secondary water metering.</p> <p><i>House 1st reading.</i></p> <p><i>1st substitute introduced. Improvement in that it further limits home association from requiring turf.</i></p> <p><i>2nd sub introduced that allows electronic submission of data by state engineer.</i></p>	1	Support

		<p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. Concurrence Calendar.</i></p>		
HB 279 Air Quality Amendments	Rep. Clancy	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 22 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>House introduced.</i></p>	2	Support
Bills added Week 1				
HB 280 Water Related Changes	Rep. Snider	<p>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</p>	1	<u>Support</u>

		<p>infrastructure projects; addressing duties; and requiring reserve studies and capital asset management.</p> <p><i>Introduced to House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee and HELD on Monday 29 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>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 Water Development Coordinating Council.</i></p> <p><i>HELD by committee for further discussion and study.</i></p> <p><i>Second substitute bill introduced. Second bill essentially converts the fee and council elements of original bill, most controversial, into studies to complete in 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
<p>HB 291 Department of Agriculture and Food Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Shipp</p>	<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</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

		<p>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 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> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendations on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
HB 295 Produced Water Amendments	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</i></p>	2	Support

		<p><i>8000 acre/feet of fresh water. Non-consumptive use only in Oil and Gas drilling.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate. On Senate 1st reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To Governor.</i></p>		
HB 297 Utah Bee Inspection Act Amendments	Rep. Shipp	<p>Prohibits a state agency from making stricter bee keeping requirements on private property than are more restrictive than those stated in state legislation.</p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 18 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.</i></p>	3	Neutral
HB 302 Paleontological Landmark Amendments	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 & Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal note received 19 Jan.</i></p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>On House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.</i></p>		
HB 317 Energy Storage Amendments	Rep. Musselman	<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><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To Governor.</i></p>	2	Oppose

<p>HB353 Mining Operations Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Bolinder</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. Assigned to Senate Business and Labor Committee.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>Bills added Week 2</p>				
<p>HB363 Livestock Grazing Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Albrecht</p>	<p>This bill recognizes a federal grazing permit or lease as a valid existing right in range management.</p> <p><i>Introduced at House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee, passed with favorable recommendation back to House on 29 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>On House 2nd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

		<p><i>“right” would essentially mean the state could not prohibit grazing so long as ranchers desire to graze.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Will continue to watch.</i></p> <p><i>Grazing should remain a permit and not a right.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
<p>HB373 Environmental Quality Amendments</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>2</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

		<p><i>Adds members of fuel and manufacturing industry to Air Quality Council.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 9 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
HB374 State Energy Policy Amendments	Rep. Jack	<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 Office of Energy Development to report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development and implementation of the state energy plan; and • the state energy plan's compliance with the state energy policy. <p><i>Passed House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Bill outlines attributes of energy resources that are ranked in priority but affordable and sustainable are 4 and 5 on the list.</i></p>	3	Neutral

		<p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p> <p><i>First substitute introduced.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.</i></p>		
HB382 Wildlife Amendments	Rep. Snider	<p><i>This bill primary makes changes to laws regulating hunting and penalties for illegal game taking.</i></p> <p><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 or resources. Oppose unless this section is removed.</i></p> <p><i>Introduced to House.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.</i></p>	1	Oppose section 23A-12-102
HB401 Water Usage Amendments	Rep. Owens	<p>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.</p>	1	Support

		<p><i>Prohibits lawn watering in certain counties from October 1 to April 30.</i></p> <p><i>Assigned to House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee. Not considered.</i></p>		
HB407 Eminent Domain Modifications	Rep. Bolinder	<p>This bill addresses when eminent domain related to mining is prohibited.</p> <p><i>More mining facilitation and protection.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Government Operations Committee on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>	2	<u>Oppose</u>
HB409 Presumption of State Jurisdiction Amendments	Rep. Ivory	<p>This bill establishes that jurisdiction over subject matters not enumerated to the federal government in the United States Constitution remains with the state of Utah; provides that any presumption against state 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.</p> <p><i>House Introduced.</i></p> <p><i>Assigned to House Judiciary Committee.</i></p>	2	<u>Oppose</u>
HB410 San Rafael State Energy Lab	Rep. Watkins	<p>This bill: establishes the San Rafael Energy Research Center; creates the State Energy Lab; establishes the membership and duties of the board; outlines the</p>	2	Neutral

		<p>purpose and duties of the center; and establishes a project proposal solicitation and approval process.</p> <p><i>Passed House Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Bill acquires existing clean energy research lab, that is to close, and creates state lab.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
Bills added Week 3				
HB433 Brine Amendments	Rep. Bolinder	<p>This bill grants rulemaking authority; provides for the designation of multiple mineral development areas; addresses notice of intention requirements related to 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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 7 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Very little debate.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 20 Feb.</i></p>	1	<u>Oppose</u>

<p>HB448 State Water Program Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>Rep. Ward</p>	<p>This bill requires the Division of Water Resources (division) to monitor state legislative water optimization 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.</p> <p><i>Requires annual reporting on progress of water optimization projects created by the legislature.</i></p> <p><i>House introduced.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB452 Carbon Capture Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Chew</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>House introduced.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>Support</u></p>

		<p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>		
HB453 Great Salt Lake Revisions	Rep. Snider	<p>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, 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</p>	1	<u>Support</u>

		<p>Council; addresses rulemaking; addresses eminent domain.</p> <p><i>Passed House Business and Labor Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>General support for this legislation.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 Feb.</i></p>		
Bills added Week 4				
HB471 Public Lands Possession Amendments	Rep. Lyman	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Appears another avenue to challenge federal management/authority on federal lands.</i></p>	2	Oppose
HB472 Water Revisions	Rep. King	<p>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 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.</p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.</i></p>	1	<u>Support</u>

HB496 Public Land Use Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Simply a bill to prohibit any land from not being available for mining, grazing, etc.</i></p>	1	Oppose
HB502 Critical Infrastructure and Mining	Rep. Snider	<p>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.</p> <p><i>This billing limits a local government to stop a mining operation and particularly if that operation has already started. So, this facilitates mine expansion and new mining.</i></p> <p><i>Assigned to House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee.</i></p>	1	Oppose
HB507 Construction Amendments	Rep. Musselman	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Assigned to House Business and Labor Committee</i></p>	1	Support
HB516 State Land Purchase Amendments	Rep. Pierrucci	<p>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</p>	3	Neutral

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>On agenda for House Government Operations Committee on 20 Feb.</i></p>		
<p>HB519 Department of Natural Resources Modifications</p>	Rep. Snider	<p>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 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 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;</p>	1	<u>Oppose</u>

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>Bill language reduces the financial oversight on water projects (that use collected state taxes.) Would appear to remove another barrier to contested large and unnecessary water development projects.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.</i></p>		
HB520 Fallow Land Amendments	Rep. Kyle	<p>This bill clarifies that land allowed to lay fallow or uncultivated for agricultural purposes qualifies for agricultural and urban farming assessment; allows a 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.</p> <p><i>On agenda for House Revenue and Taxation Committee for 20 Feb.</i></p>	3	Neutral
HB524 Water Interests Study	Rep. Eliason	<p>This bill requires the state engineer to study issues related to conveyances of water interests related to residential buildings; and requires reporting.</p>	2	Neutral

		<i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.</i>		
Bills added Week 5				
HB525 Agricultural Amendments	Rep. Dailey-Provost	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Study of local agriculture.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.</i></p>	3	Neutral
HB535 Water Conservation Modifications	Rep. Kohler	<p>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.</p>	1	Support
HB552 Pollution Control Amendments	Rep. Spendlove	<p>This bill addresses provisions related to pollution control.</p> <p><i>Broadens the type of pollution control facility that can receive tax credits.</i></p>	2	Support
SB 16 Motor Vehicle Act Amendments	Sen. Harper	<p>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.</p>	2	Support

		<p><i>Passed Senate and House. On Senate Concurrent calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Some questions on Support position. My read, bill 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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House and Senate. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
SB 17 Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill extends the sunset date for the Safe Drinking Water Act.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate and House, to GOVERNOR.</i></p>	1	Support
SB 18 Water Modifications	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

		<p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 7 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
<p>SB 20 Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board Amendments</p>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill extends the sunset date of the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board from 2024 to 2034.</p> <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><i>Passed Senate and House. To GOVERNOR.</i></p>	3	Neutral
<p>SB 28 Scenic Byway Program Amendments</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>Significant modification to first substitute but importantly removes the member of the billboard</i></p>	2	Neutral

		<p><i>industry from the committee and adds the legislature via concurrent resolution for approval above the committee.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Transportation Committee on 21 Feb.</i></p>		
SB 39 Water Shareholder Amendments	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> <p><i>Passed House Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>On House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate and House. To Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p>	3	Neutral
SB 55 Bear Lake Preservation Amendments	Sen. Wilson	<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>	2	<u>Neutral</u>

		<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>SB 57 Utah Constitutional Sovereignty Act</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><i>This is not specifically environmentally focus so priority lowered.</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

		<p><i>Passed Senate to House. House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Committee passed with favorable recommendation on 24 Jan.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House. SIGNED by GOVERNOR.</i></p>		
SB 67 Public Thoroughfare Amendments	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>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House to Senate.</i></p>	3	Oppose
SB 75 Mineral Amendments	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>	3	Oppose

		<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. 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>Passed Senate to House.</i></p> <p><i>House introduced.</i></p> <p><i>House to Rules due to Fiscal Note change.</i></p>		
SB 77 Water Rights Restricted Account Amendments	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 1st reading.</i></p> <p><i>Passed House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 1 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>On House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate and House. To Governor.</i></p>	1	Support
Bills added Week 1				

<p>SB113 Disposition of State Property Amendments</p>	<p>Sen. Buxton</p>	<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>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.</i></p> <p><i>Low priority, but change to Oppose from Watch as bill seems a play to take control of the land from the Center.</i></p> <p><i>Bill substituted and amended. New bill leaves authority with developmental center.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Government Operations Committee on 20 Feb..</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>SB118 Water Efficiency Amendments</p>	<p>Sen. McKell</p>	<p>This bill provides for developer incentives to use water efficient landscaping in new residential development; grants rulemaking authority.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Support</p>

		<i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee for 21 Feb.</i>		
SB125 Secondary Water Amendments	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> <p><i>Senate 3rd reading calendar, CIRCLED.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House. House 3rd reading calendar.</i></p>	1	Oppose
Bills added Week 2				
SB142 Lawn Equipment Tax Credit Amendments	Sen. Pitcher	<p>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.</p>	2	Support

		<i>Assigned to Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. NOT CONSIDERED.</i>		
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. <i>Assigned to Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.</i>	2	Support
Bills added Week 3				
SB161 Energy Security Amendments	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 decommissioning; allows the state the option to purchase an electrical generation facility intended for decommissioning if no buyer purchases at full fair	2	Oppose

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>First read, this is another bill that could complicate the decommissioning of inefficient power plants.</i></p> <p><i>Per sponsor this is a specific bill to save a particular power plant and local jobs.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>On House 2nd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 3rd reading. CIRCLED.</i></p>		
<p>SB170 Clean Truck Incentive Program</p>	<p>Sen. Ipson</p>	<p>This bill creates a grant program within the Division of Air Quality for eligible purchasers of clean trucks; directs the division to provide grants from the Environmental Mitigation and Response Fund; allows the division to replenish the Environmental Mitigation and Response Fund with money from federal programs; outlines the incentives available to eligible purchasers through the program; requires the division to coordinate with the Department of Transportation in using federal funds for</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Support</p>

		<p>the program; requires the division to make a recommendation to the Air Quality Board relating to the regulation of medium or heavy duty vehicles.</p> <p><i>Assigned to Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee.</i></p>		
<p>SB172 Protection Areas Revisions</p>	<p>Sen. Hinkins</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Extensive existing legislation and this bill makes numerous changes. First read, another means to “fence off” mining, ag/ranching, etc lands from other use.</i></p> <p><i>Assigned to Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

		<i>Fiscal note received, sent back to Senate Rules.</i>		
SB179 Transportation Amendments	Sen. Harper	<p>This bill makes technical changes throughout various sections to clean up cross references and remove 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.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee with favorable recommendation on 5 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 2nd reading calendar.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House. Assigned to House Transportation Committee.</i></p>	3	Neutral
SB191 Grid Enhancing Technologies	Sen. Blouin	<p>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</p>	2	Support

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy and Technology Committee on with favorable recommendation on 12 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p>		
Bills Added Week 4				
SB195 Golf Course Amendments	Sen. McCay	<p>This bill makes water data regarding golf courses a protected record under Government Records Access and Management Act; requires a study of water use by golf courses; creates an advisory board related to golf that is subject to a sunset date.</p> <p><i>Appears overall positive to study water use at golf courses, need to understand the protecting of the water data.</i></p> <p><i>Water data protection is only for data collected in the study. Public golf course water is currently available.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 8 Feb.</i></p>	2	Support

		<i>Senate 3rd reading. CIRCLED.</i>		
SB196 Great Salt Lake Amendments	Sen. Blouin	<p>This directs the Great Salt Lake Commissioner to make a plan and conduct a pilot program to address wet water years; requires reporting.</p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.</i></p> <p><i>Senate 3rd reading calendar.</i></p>	1	Support
SB203 Drinking Water Amendments	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a fee schedule; outlines requirements related to the fee schedule; allows for fees to be set to establish a financial incentive to comply with certain criteria; provides for the collection of fees; provides that the fees are treated as dedicated credits; and requires monitoring of fees.</p> <p><i>Will result in increased fee on drinking water.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p>	2	Neutral
SB211 Generational Water Infrastructure Amendments	Sen. Adams	<p>This directs the creation of the Water District Water Development Council (council) under the Interlocal Cooperation Act; outlines restrictions on the 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</p>	1	<u>Oppose</u>

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate to House.</i></p> <p><i>On agenda for House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee on 21 Feb.</i></p>		
SB224 Energy Independence Amendments	Sen. Sandall	<p>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</p>	1	<u>Oppose</u>

		<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Passes cost of liability insurance to users.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee with favorable recommendation on 14 Feb.</i></p>		
Bills Added Week 5				
SB242 Utah Lake Modifications	Sen. McKell	<p>This bill repeals the Utah Lake Restoration Act; repeals the provisions related to the Utah Lake Diking Project.</p> <p><i>Repeals of the act and provisions for diking at Utah Lake very positive.</i></p> <p><i>Passed Senate Economic Development and Workforce Committee on 16 Feb.</i></p>	1	<u>Support</u>