

# UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2025 General Legislative Session

Week 1

January 26, 2025

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### **2025 Legislative Update**

Each update provides key highlights for the prior week's 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**

The first week saw several bills of interest, though not of major impact, move through both the House and Senate through floor votes or get assigned to committee. See notes in the tracker below.

### **On Water**

Representative Doug Owens introduced several bills on Friday of this week to address water usage. Not major water savings but continuing a process for government to take first steps in water conservation. These were:

HB318 Residential Turf Amendments

HB328 Water Usage Amendments

HB330 Water Sprinkler Efficiency Amendments

Honestly, I think these will be difficult sells to this legislature.

**ACTION ALERT:** contact your local representative and let them know these bills are common sense regulations and should gain their support. Debates still to come so much more to learn.

I am encouraged that from my initial reading the majority of water bills are Support or Neutral with only two Oppose. Again, not major advancements but every step helps.

### **On Wildland/Wetland Management**

Representative Casey Snider introduced a bill to create a new wildlife management area (HB244) and another that was primarily focused on hunting regulations (HB309). Unfortunately, both have issues on managing access to WMAs and HB244 eliminates the dike/man made structure regulations in the Willard Spur WMA. National Audubon is engaging with Rep. Snider to discuss these bills, so there is still significant work to understand these better.

### **On Public Lands**

I still expect more efforts by the legislature to limit federal authority on federal land. Rep. Doug Owens introduced an interesting bill (HB319) that would require DNR to conduct a survey of state a federal-lands with particular attention to land that would serve recreational purposes. This would include a recommendation for acquiring federal land. Need to understand this more but could be part of a compromise with leadership with respect to land acquisition.

### **On Energy**

Fossil fuels continue to be a focus for the legislature. There are several bills that appear designed to facilitate and incentivize fossil fuel use for the foreseeable future without question.

Nuclear is also on the agenda aligned to the Governor's Project Gigawatt. Concerns exist around accurate quantification of cost and management presented as part of the decision-making process. I expect much more discussion as the session proceeds.

## BILL TRACKING LIST

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

Position: Underline means initial position ... investigating further.

Bill	Sponsor	Description <i>Italics are UAC commentary/explanation</i> <i>Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.</i>	Topic	Status	Priority	Position
<b>HOUSE BILLS PRE-SESSION</b>						
<a href="#">HB18</a> Petroleum Storage Tank Amendments	Rep. Steve Eliason	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ changes terms "underground" and "petroleum" as appropriate;</li> <li>▶ provides that the Petroleum Storage Tank Restricted Account earns interest to be deposited into that account;</li> <li>▶ addresses registration of underground storage tanks and aboveground petroleum storage tanks;</li> <li>▶ addresses the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund, including authorization to request certain legislative appropriations;</li> <li>▶ modifies assessment of an environmental assurance fee based on the cash balance of the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund;</li> <li>▶ modifies the petroleum storage tank fee provisions;</li> <li>▶ provides for certificates of compliance;</li> <li>▶ clarifies restrictions on petroleum storage tank installation companies;</li> <li>▶ directs certain monies be deposited into the Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup Fund;</li> <li>▶ addresses claims not covered by the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund;</li> <li>▶ clarifies language regarding liability;</li> </ul>	Admin	House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	Low	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses eligibility for participation in the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Substantial changes, many are technical in nature. Those that are more substantial clarify the responsibilities and fees of tank installers. My read is clarifications are more stringent than previous version.</i></p>				
<b>HB26 Road Jurisdiction Amendments</b>	Rep. Karen M. Peterson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ removes certain roads as state highways; and</li> <li>▶ modifies the description of certain state highways.</li> </ul> <p><i>Technical changes to highway names.</i></p>	Admin	Passed House to Senate Assigned to Senate Transportation Comm.	Low	Neutral
<b>HB34 State Campground Amendments</b>	Rep. Steve Eliason	<p>This bill establishes the procedure for designating a state campground; addresses management of state campgrounds; and authorizes rulemaking by the Division of State Parks to: establish the process for completing and submitting an application; and administer management of a state campground.</p> <p><i>Provides clarity on the creation and management of state-run campgrounds.</i></p>	Land use	Passed House to Senate Assigned Senate Natural Resources Comm	Low	Support
<b>HB36 Provo Canyon Resource Management Plan Amendments</b>	Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion	<p>This bill extends the sunset date for the section related to the Provo Canyon resource management plan.</p>	Admin	Passed House to Senate Assigned Senate Natural Resources Comm	Low	Neutral
<b>HB41 State Water Policy Amendments</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sub</b>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses water quality in groundwater;</li> <li>▶ removes language related to balancing certain values or needs in water policy;</li> <li>▶ encourages monitoring of watersheds;</li> <li>▶ promotes state water planning;</li> <li>▶ accounts for regionally appropriate water reuse; and</li> </ul>	Water	Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation	Low	Support

		<p>► makes technical changes.</p> <p><i>Positive update to state water policy other than elimination of verbiage; "... balancing economic, social and environmental needs." This was late proposal from lame duck Rep. Jimenez. <b>Oppose elimination of verbiage on principle.</b></i></p> <p><i>Text has been added back to bill. SUPPORT.</i></p>				
<b>HB46 Water Rights Applications Amendments</b>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► addresses time frames related to reinstatement of a lapsed application; and</li> <li>► makes technical changes.</li> </ul>	Water	Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation	Low	Neutral
<b>HB47 Public Lands Watering Rights Amendments</b>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► repeals language regarding livestock water use certificates;</li> <li>► addresses when a federal land management agency reduces livestock grazing animal unit month (AUMs);</li> <li>► addresses a claim under Public Water Reserve No. 107; and</li> <li>► makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Complex legal water rights issue.</i></p> <p><i>This is based on a 19020's era executive order PWR107 setting aside land around water on public lands for grazing or human consumption. However, BLM has never completely inventoried such water sources. This requires that if the federal government claims water rights for water on federal land, they have the responsibility if to demonstrate that the water source meets the PR 107 timeline and quantify beneficial water rights. The water rights will then be determined through state processes.</i></p>	Land Use	Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation	Low	Neutral

		<i>My research on this is that these changes clarify the process for the state engineer. All research shows that this has been poorly planned on state and federal levels and will most likely only be worked out through litigation.</i>				
<b>HB48 Wildland Urban Interface Modifications</b>	Rep. Casey Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires counties to take certain actions related to wildland urban interface property, including assessing a fee;</li> <li>▶ directs the fee to be retained by a county or deposited into the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund;</li> <li>▶ addresses insuring wildland urban interface property;</li> <li>▶ imposes notice requirements related to insuring wildland urban interface property;</li> <li>▶ requires counties and municipalities to adopt the wildland urban interface building code standards;</li> <li>▶ permits the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) to choose not to cover costs of local governments under certain circumstances;</li> <li>▶ directs the division to establish a program for wildland urban interface coordinators to evaluate, using a triage scale, high risk wildland urban interface property;</li> <li>▶ addresses actions related to evaluating the high-risk wildland urban interface property;</li> <li>▶ provides for a database to be accessed by certain insurers related to evaluating high risk wildland urban interface property;</li> <li>▶ authorizes rulemaking;</li> <li>▶ addresses liability; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Establishes fees for development near wildland to address fire hazard risks.</i></p>	Admin	Assigned to House Business, Labor, Commerce Comm	Low	Neutral

<b>HB67 Precious Metals Investment and Administration Amendments</b>	Rep. K Ivory	<p>This bill allows the state treasurer to deduct administrative costs for investing in precious metals from earnings generated by the investments in certain funds.</p> <p><i>Bill makes no substantive changes to existing law or incentives simply clarifies money uses in the fund.</i></p>	Mining	Passed Senate to House	Low	Neutral
<b>HB70 Decommissioned Asset Disposition Amendments</b>	Rep. C. Jack	<p>This bill prohibits a project entity from: altering facilities that provide power to station service; disconnecting from or modifying existing interconnections and critical switchyard equipment; and taking actions that would require a new plant owner to make an interconnection request.</p> <p><i>This is another means to prevent the decommissioning of coal fired power plants.</i></p>	Coal	House first reading	Low	<u>Oppose</u>
<b>HB72 Electricity Rate Amendments</b>	Rep. C. Albrecht	<p>This bill establishes requirements for the Public Service Commission to prioritize Utah ratepayer interests when allocating utility costs; prohibits cost recovery from Utah ratepayers for facilities and programs primarily benefiting other states; eliminates electrical corporation energy balancing account cost recovery for costs incurred after December 31, 2024; and maintains existing energy balancing account provisions for costs incurred before December 31, 2024.</p> <p><i>While this appears a means to control electricity cost increases, it may also be a back door to solidifying coal as primary and future power source in Utah.</i></p> <p><i>Discussed at House Public Utilities and Energy Committee on Jan 22. I read this as a political battle between Rep. Albrecht and RMP. It will</i></p>	Coal	Passed House Public Utilities Committee with Favorable Recommendation Jan 22, 25	Low	Neutral

		<i>certainly mean more emphasis by RMP on fossil fuels.</i>				
<b>HB85 Environmental Permitting Modifications</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> sub	Rep. T. Clancy	<p>This bill requires the Division of Air Quality (division) to develop and publish guidance and rules related to federal plantwide applicability limitations; requires the division to review the division's rules related to permit by rule registration; adds a repeal date for the sections related to plantwide applicability limitations and permit by rule registration.</p> <p><i>I will listen to any committee discussion.</i></p> <p><i>This bill initiates a study and recommendation only.</i></p> <p><i>Permit by rule is a means to allow new facilities to avoid permitting reviews. Bill language includes "natural gas boilers and heaters" and "sand and gravel" as eligible for Permit by Rule. This could essentially provide a rubber stamp for such facilities in the future.</i></p>	Air	Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation	Low	Neutral
<b>HB89 Water Transfer Amendments</b>	Rep. G. Bennion	This bill prohibits the transfer of water shares via small estate probate procedures involving an affidavit.	Water	Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm	Low	Support
<b>HB103 Public Land Access Road Amendments</b>	Rep. T. Shelley	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) and the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) to identify certain roads that provide access to the state lands;</li> <li>▶ requires PLPCO and SITLA to record with the relevant county recorder's office notice of the access roads relevant to state lands;</li> <li>▶ exempts class A, class B, and class C roads from the notice requirements; and</li> <li>▶ codifies a provision to ensure that title to a class D road abandoned by a county reverts to</li> </ul>	Road	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	<u>Neutral</u>



		<p>the state.</p> <p><i>I read this as a requirement to map roads on state land so if sold or transferred, particularly to federal government, this is evidence to keep roads open for "traffic use" (OHV). However, it is a very specific requirement for mapping only.</i></p>				
<b>HB115 State Park Funding Amendments</b>	Rep. W. Brooks	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ allows interest earned on the money in the State Park Fees Restricted Account to remain in the account.</li> </ul> <p><i>Creates more funds for state parks through interest.</i></p>	Land	Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm	Low	Support
<b>HB119 Solar Panel Restrictions in Homeowners Associations Amendments</b>	Rep. D. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ stops a homeowner's association from prohibiting solar panel installation; and</li> <li>▶ authorizes a homeowner's association to restrict solar panel installation.</li> </ul>	Solar	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Support
<b>HB147 Aquatic Invasive Species</b>	Rep. Shipp	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ exempts an owner or operator of certain vessels from requirements related to invasive species and launching or operating the vessel on waters of the state.</li> </ul> <p><i>Exempts nonmotorized boats and inflatable motorized from the inspection fee.</i></p>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Neutral
<b>HB153 Hunting Requirements</b>	Rep. Shipp	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ allows for compensating up to three individuals in locating or monitoring the location of big game animals on public land;</li> <li>▶ provides an exemption under certain circumstances for an individual disclosing the location of a big game animal;</li> <li>▶ clarifies effect of violating provisions related to compensating people to locate big game animals.</li> </ul>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Neutral

		<i>Changes to existing statute. Main change is expansion from 1 to 3 of compensated individuals that monitor big game and provide location to a hunting guide.</i>				
<b>HB157 Energy Education Amendments</b>	Rep. C. Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Office of Energy Development (office) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•develop and maintain energy education programs and curricula for grades K-12;</li> <li>•develop and provide professional development training for educators;</li> <li>•develop energy related workforce development programs; and</li> <li>•establish the Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ outlines the responsibilities and duties of the task force; and</li> <li>▶ requires the office to report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.</li> </ul> <p><i>Content is not specified but seems means to establish “coal first” education. Will monitor committee conversations.</i></p>	Admin	House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	Low	<u>Oppose</u>
<b>HB174 Water Rights Restricted Account</b>	Rep. Albrect	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses money for obtaining legal support.</li> </ul> <p><i>Allows funds in the restricted account to be used for legal services.</i></p> <p><i>Primarily the funds in the account are for studies and monitoring of water and infrastructure. Position OPPOSE but will follow and if the legal support is limited to executing on the primary purpose, then will shift to SUPPORT, if for any legal support then maintain OPPOSE</i></p>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	<u>Oppose</u>
<b>HB185 Railroad Modifications</b>	Rep. Clancy	This bill:	Air	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Division of Air Quality (division) to conduct an inventory related to emissions from railyards in certain counties in the state;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to propose an emissions reduction plan for emissions from certain railroad locomotives to be implemented by December 31, 2027;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to recommend state action for implementing the emissions reduction plan; and</li> <li>▶ requires the division to report on the inventory, plan, and recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><i>This bill initiates a STUDY.</i></p>				
<b>HB201 Energy Resource Amendments</b>	Rep. Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires full cost attribution for supplemental resources in integrated resource plans;</li> <li>▶ establishes requirements for calculating generation capacity;</li> <li>▶ prohibits certain involuntary demand management programs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Again, complex but hard not to read as a means to de-incentive non fossil fuel energy options.</i></p>	Coal	Assigned to House Public Utilities Comm	High	<u>Oppose</u>
<b>HB212 Grid Enhancing Technology</b>	Rep. Watkins	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ outlines cost-effectiveness analyses and approval procedures when a large-scale electric utility (utility) proposes grid enhancement deployment; and</li> <li>▶ provides that a utility may recover approved costs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Provides for a financial incentive if an electricity generator implements grid enhancing technology.</i></p> <p><i>Need to investigate more. There is some concern that this could be further incentive for fossil fuels and nuclear.</i></p>	Energy	On agenda for House Public Utilities Comm 27 Jan 25	Low	<u>Neutral</u>

<b><a href="#">HB229</a> Transportation Funds Amendments</b>	Rep. Christofferson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ amends provisions related to corridor preservation to include fixed guideway public transit facilities for corridor preservation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Technical changes to this bill. I will have to follow but my early read is that this protects “transportation corridors” for the inland ports.</i></p> <p><i>Will track.</i></p>	Land Use	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	<u>Oppose</u>
<b><a href="#">HB241</a> Solar Power Plan Amendments</b>	Rep. Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ establishes location and design standards for solar power plants;</li> <li>▶ sets requirements for lot size, height, setbacks, noise levels, and visual appearance;</li> <li>▶ prohibits solar power plants in certain areas;</li> <li>▶ requires a decommissioning plan and fund;</li> <li>▶ establishes a permit application and review process; and</li> <li>▶ provides for severability.</li> </ul> <p><i>Need to listen to debates. I question if these requirements are onerous and therefore de-incentivizing solar power plant creation.</i></p>	Solar	House	High	<u>Neutral</u>
<b><a href="#">HB243</a> Agriculture Water Optimization Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ allows the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee to use certain money to fund research;</li> <li>▶ modifies eligibility requirements related to grants for agricultural water optimization; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>More uses of water optimization fund.</i></p>	Water	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	Support
<b><a href="#">HB244</a> Wildlife Management Area Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ directs the creation of a wildlife management area known as the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area;</li> </ul>	Habitat	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	<u>Watch</u>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides limits and requirements related to the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area;</li> <li>▶ removes restrictions on impounding structures in certain waterfowl management areas;</li> <li>▶ removes prohibitions related to the regulation of airboats or small watercraft in certain waterfowl management areas.</li> </ul> <p><i>After conversation with National Audubon more time is needed to determine position. While creating new WMA is positive this bill takes back some key provisions negotiated previously such as dike and access limitations.</i></p>				
<b><a href="#">HB249 Nuclear Power Amendments</a></b>	Rep. Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates the Nuclear Energy Consortium within the Office of Energy Development (office) and establishes its membership and duties;</li> <li>▶ creates the Utah Energy Council within the office and establishes its membership and duties;</li> <li>▶ modifies the duties and name of the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab Board;</li> <li>▶ establishes a process for designating electrical energy development zones;</li> <li>▶ creates the Electrical Energy Development Investment Fund and provides for its administration; and</li> <li>▶ establishes authorized uses of fund money.</li> </ul> <p><i>Major bill. Will need to consult with Utah Clean Energy. Rep Albrecht was staunch opponent of RMP. Initial read is this is means to pull away from RMP which would mean more reliance on coal.</i></p> <p><i>Moved to OPPOSE. Many negatives to this bill. Creates a council of political appointees that will</i></p>	Nuclear	On agenda for House Public Utilities Comm 27 Jan 25	High	<u>Oppose</u>

		<i>facilitate the generation of electrical transmission.</i>				
<b>HB255 Local Land Use Modifications</b>	Rep. Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ authorizes an owner of at least 50 contiguous acres of agricultural land in a county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class to create a new lot that, after the division, is separate from the remainder of the original 50 contiguous acres of agricultural land;</li> <li>▶ provides that a minor subdivision lot may not be less than 500 feet from another minor subdivision lot within the same divided agricultural property.</li> </ul> <p><i>Appears a means to ease agricultural land sub-division for development.</i></p>	Land Use	House	Low	Oppose
<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 1</b>						
<b>HB274 Water Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides circumstances of when a municipality may set different water rates based in part on water conservation;</li> <li>▶ addresses impact fees and impact fee facilities plans related to water;</li> <li>▶ addresses rate setting by a retail water supplier;</li> <li>▶ provides for how revenues from retail rates may be spent;</li> <li>▶ creates a presumption regarding the reasonableness of certain water rates that include water conservation as an element in determining the rate;</li> <li>▶ modifies provisions related to the Board of Water Resources;</li> <li>▶ addresses tiered rates for secondary water.</li> </ul> <p><i>Overall, very positive bill. Rep. Snider was very interested and supportive of the water study, presented to committee in November 24, that</i></p>	Water	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	<p><u>Neutral</u></p> <p>OPPOSE line 885.</p>

		<p><i>clearly demonstrated tiered water pricing as the best means for conservation. This bill appears to incorporate the changes to law necessary for water suppliers to charge tiered pricing.</i></p> <p><i>OPPOSE: line 885 of as introduced version eliminates the party limitation on the Board of Water Resources. This seems disconnected from the overall intent of the bill. Will need to listen to understand reasoning.</i></p>				
<b>HB285 Water Infrastructure Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ repeals the Water Resources Cities Water Loan Fund and provides that loan repayments go into the Water Infrastructure Fund;</li> <li>▶ authorizes transfers of money in water funds and accounts to and from the Water Infrastructure Fund;</li> <li>▶ requires capital asset management plans and reserve funding under certain circumstances;</li> <li>▶ modifies definitions, including the definition of "relevant agency";</li> <li>▶ addresses the water infrastructure prioritization process, including exemptions from the process.</li> </ul> <p><i>Highly technical changes.</i></p> <p><i>This bill appears to me as a follow-up to Rep. Snider's HB280 of 2024. Essentially it is the first step of consolidation of water infrastructure funds into a single account and process for centralized water funding and decision making on infrastructure. We opposed HB280'24 as originally presented but supported the study. This implements the output of that study.</i></p> <p><i>NEUTRAL but watch at this point. Need to understand how this implementation differs from</i></p>	Water	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	<u>Neutral</u>

		<i>original plan of HB280. Does it address concerns with centralized decision making presented last year? Does it implement per study completed in November?</i>				
<b>HB304 Livestock Watering Modifications</b>	Rep. Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ establishes the requirements to apply for a certificate recognizing certain livestock watering uses;</li> <li>▶ directs the state engineer's actions with regard to a certificate for livestock watering use;</li> <li>▶ addresses the effect of a certificate for a livestock watering use;</li> <li>▶ provides for rulemaking; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Bill recognizes water use for grazing as a water share. Essentially replaces a previous certificating process.</i></p>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Neutral
<b>HB306 Precious Metals Amendments</b>	Rep. Ivory	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ extends and adds a sunset date to the state treasurer's precious metals study requirement;</li> <li>▶ requires the state treasurer to develop and issue a request for proposals for a precious metals-backed electronic payment system;</li> <li>▶ establishes requirements for the request for proposals;</li> <li>▶ requires the state treasurer to evaluate proposals; and</li> <li>▶ requires annual reporting to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee.</li> </ul>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Neutral
<b>HB309 Wildlife Amendments</b>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses night hunting of nonprotected wildlife;</li> <li>▶ provides limits on a political subdivision or conservation easement prohibiting or restricting hunting;</li> </ul>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Watch



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ imposes requirements for holding a hunting or combination license for service on the Wildlife Board or a regional advisory council;</li> <li>▶ addresses target shooting on wildlife management areas;</li> <li>▶ addresses definition of and access to wildlife management areas;</li> <li>▶ modifies provisions related to Department of Agriculture and Food's activities related to livestock depredation and big game protection;</li> <li>▶ corrects a definition of "big game";</li> <li>▶ addresses feeding of big game.</li> </ul> <p><i>Primarily hunting regulations.</i></p> <p><i>This bill can be read to limit WMA access for hunting/fishing only, would exclude birding.</i> <i>Needs further investigation</i></p>				
<a href="#">HB311 Watershed Amendments</a>	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ allows the state engineer to require the repair or construction of certain hydroelectric facilities to prevent waste, loss, pollution, or contamination of waters;</li> <li>▶ requires an owner or operator of a hydroelectric facility to maintain the facility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•prevent waste of water, damage to property, and injury to others; and</li> <li>•mitigate environmental impacts;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ addresses liability of an owner or operator of a hydroelectric facility;</li> <li>▶ clarifies that water stored in a reservoir or body of water for power generation may only be used for power generation.</li> </ul>	Admin	House 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	High	Support
<a href="#">HB318 Residential Turf Amendments</a>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires a municipality or county to adopt lawn or turf restrictions for certain newly constructed residences;</li> </ul>	Water	House	High	<u>Support</u>

		<p>▶ allows a municipality or county to adopt more restrictive limitations.</p> <p><i>Sets specific requirements on lawn size for new construction. Similar bill worked last year never left committee. This may now address concerns but I see this as an uphill battle.</i></p>				
<b>HB319 Natural Resources Survey Amendments</b>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Department of Natural Resources (department) every two years to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•survey all state-owned and federally-managed land in this state; and</li> <li>•create and maintain an inventory of land that the state may develop as outdoor recreation infrastructure;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ requires the department to identify and recommend federally-managed land that the state may acquire or manage for outdoor recreation infrastructure;</li> <li>▶ allows the department to request assistance from state and federal entities to complete the survey and inventory;</li> <li>▶ requires the department to submit a report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Interim Committee in each survey year.</li> </ul> <p><i>These amendments direct for the conduct of a survey of state and federal land that could be used for recreation purposes. This includes a recommendation by DNR for federal land to be acquired.</i></p> <p><i>Will speak to Rep. Owens about this strategy. Seems it may be a compromise bill with Republicans who are looking at federal land for transfer to state. This would require DNR to</i></p>	Land Use	House	High	<u>Support</u>

		<i>actually survey land to determine usability vs pure land grab.</i>				
<b>HB328 Water Usage Amendments</b>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ directs a municipality or county to require compliance with a prohibition on use of overhead spray irrigation as part of land use approvals;</li> <li>▸ requires a municipality or county to give notice of the prohibition on use of overhead spray irrigation;</li> <li>▸ encourages a municipality or county to review certain plans, act on the plans, inspect for compliance, and address noncompliance; and</li> <li>▸ prohibits for new development and redevelopment the use of overhead spray irrigation except under certain circumstances.</li> </ul>	Water	House	High	<u>Support</u>
<b>HB330 Water Sprinkler Efficiency Amendments</b>	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ prohibits certain activities related to spray sprinkler bodies;</li> <li>▸ provides exceptions; and</li> <li>▸ creates an enforcement process.</li> </ul> <p><i>I see this as a “big ask” from Rep. Owens. Very specific limitations on sprinkler design for install. Generally, legislature not very open to such specific restrictions. Will follow.</i></p>	Water	House	High	<u>Support</u>
<b>RESOLUTIONS PRE-SESSION</b>						
<b>HCR1 House Concurrent Resolution Regarding the Grand County Water Conservancy District</b>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ urges Congress to transfer to the Grand County Water Conservancy District water infrastructure owned by the federal government for the conveyance of water from the Green River to the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action project site.</li> </ul> <p><i>Seems innocuous on face but I am concerned there are additional plans. Will need to watch.</i></p>	Water	Passed House	Low	<u>Oppose</u>

<p><b>SCR3 Senate Concurrent Resolution Regarding Utah's Authority to Determine its Energy Future</b></p>	<p>Sen. Harper</p>	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ affirms that the authority to determine energy policies substantially affecting the well-being of state residents is among the powers reserved to the states under the Tenth Amendment;</li> <li>▶ asserts Utah's right to play a primary role in determining energy policies within its borders, including decisions about energy development and facility siting;</li> <li>▶ calls upon the federal government to recognize states' constitutional authority and superior positioning to make location-specific decisions about energy projects;</li> <li>▶ urges the federal government to limit its role in energy regulation to matters of interstate commerce and national security;</li> <li>▶ requests meaningful, early, and ongoing consultation between federal agencies and states when developing energy-related policies or regulations;</li> <li>▶ encourages Congress to pass legislation requiring federal agencies to demonstrate adequate consultation with states before implementing energy-related regulations; and</li> <li>▶ calls for the creation of formal mechanisms for state input in federal energy policy decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>Energy</p>	<p>Senate 1<sup>st</sup> reading</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p><b>SENATE BILLS PRE-SESSION</b></p>						
<p><b>SB30 Forest Fire Resources Compacts Amendments</b></p>	<p>Sen. Derrin Owens</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ empowers the governor to enter into the compact related to forest fires in the form provided in statute.</li> </ul>	<p>Admin</p>	<p>Passed Senate to House Assigned to House Nat Resources Committee</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p><b>SB33 Water Rights Recording Amendments</b></p>	<p>Sen. Evan Vickers</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ allows certain signatures to be by facsimile or electronic means; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Passed Senate to House</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

<b>SB34 Mineral Surety Study</b>	Sen. Derrin Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines "surety" for purpose of the study;</li> <li>▶ requires the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (division) to study certain surety issues;</li> <li>▶ directs the division to make a report; and</li> <li>▶ provides a repeal date.</li> </ul> <p><i>Study will look at needed surety requirements from mining companies wrt mine closure and clean up.</i></p> <p><i>Support study but will be interested to see study results if more proposals for tax payers to absorb costs.</i></p>	Mining	Passed Senate to House	High	<u>Support</u>
<b>SB36 Water Quality Board Modifications</b>	Sen. Todd Weiler	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ establishes a process for the Utah Water Quality Board to review settlement negotiation between the director and a party in alleged violation of the Utah Water Quality Act; and</li> <li>▶ authorizes the Utah Water Quality Board to issue a final order establishing a reasonable penalty in ongoing settlement negotiations.</li> </ul> <p><i>Specific changes to address disputes.</i></p>	Water	Senate Circled	Low	Neutral
<b>SB51 State Resource Plan Modifications</b>	Sen. K. Stratton	<p>This bill adopts a state resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan.</p> <p><i>I have read the plan. No significant changes overall. Nothing overtly negative but certainly no progressive environmental measures.</i></p>	Admin	Passed Senate to House	Low	Neutral
<b>SB61 Energy Corridor Amendments</b>	Sen. D.R. Owens	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires a person filing an eminent domain action for certain telecommunications, electric light, and electric power infrastructure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conduct an infrastructure siting analysis; and</li> <li>• coordinate with federal land management agencies before pursuing condemnation of private lands;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Land Use	Senate	Low	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ modifies the requirements for certain eminent domain complaints to include infrastructure siting analysis and federal agency coordination documentation;</li> <li>▶ requires a public utility to submit an annual report on eminent domain actions and efforts to utilize federal public lands to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.</li> </ul> <p><i>Clarifies and adds requirements to seize private land via eminent domain.</i></p>				
<b>SB62 Spaceport Exploration Committee</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sub</b>	Sen. J. Stevenson	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates the Spaceport Exploration Committee; and</li> <li>▶ establishes membership and duties of the committee.</li> </ul> <p><i>Another significant development project that would impact; land, energy, air, etc.</i></p> <p><i>At this time, this only establishes a committee to conduct a study and make recommendation, concern is that this is simply a "go forward."</i></p>	Land Use	<p>23 Jan Passed Senate Transportation Committee w Favorable Recommendation</p> <p>Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for sub</p>	Low	Neutral
<b>SB63 Waste Tire Recycling</b>	Sen. E. Vickers	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ modifies definitions;</li> <li>▶ exempts landfills from restrictions on accepting waste tires if the landfill uses a mobile facility to reduce the size of waste tires;</li> <li>▶ allows shredded or chipped waste tires to be disposed of in a landfill;</li> <li>▶ allows an owner or operator of a landfill in a county of the third through sixth class to apply for reimbursement for waste tires disposed of in the owner or operator's landfill.</li> </ul>	Admin	Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee	Low	Support

		<i>This bill clarifies and adds requirements on allowing tires to be disposed in landfills. Does not allow disposal not already in statute.</i>				
<b>SB80 Drinking Water Amendments</b>	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a fee schedule;</li> <li>▶ outlines requirements related to the fee schedule;</li> <li>▶ allows the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a financial incentive to comply with certain criteria;</li> <li>▶ provides for the collection of fees;</li> <li>▶ creates an exemption related to wholesale water suppliers;</li> <li>▶ provides that fees are treated as dedicated credits; and</li> <li>▶ requires monitoring of fees.</li> </ul> <p><i>Sen. Sandall has previously proposed legislation to collect fees to ensure adequate testing of drinking water given the increase in consumption and funding has been provided at a state level. This bill also provides for incentives if water systems implement tiered rate systems, which encourage conservation, therefore I rank as HIGH importance.</i></p> <p><i>This bill modifies the chapter of code on Safe Drinking Water, so appears a follow up to previous bills.</i></p> <p><i>Need to listen to discussion to determine the intent.</i></p>	Admin	Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee	High	<u>Support</u>
<b>SB92 Golf Course Amendments</b>	Sen. McCay	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ makes a record of water data regarding golf courses prepared for and provided to the Utah State University Institute of Land, Air, and Water pursuant to statute a protected record under the</li> </ul>	Water	Senate	High	Support

		<p>Government Records Access and Management Act;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires a study of water use by golf courses;</li> <li>▶ outlines a process to be followed in conducting and reporting on the study;</li> <li>▶ requires the Division of State Parks to develop a master plan for state-owned golf courses and to report on the master plan.</li> </ul> <p><i>While this bill does keep the water usage data by course protected it actually has many positive requirements for working with golf courses on water conservation and allows for publication of “de-identified” data.</i></p> <p><i>Support overall bill ... express objection to the protection requirement.</i></p>				
<a href="#">SB124</a> Landscaping Procurement Amendments 1 <sup>st</sup> sub	Sen. Pitcher	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates a timeline of increasing prohibitions on the use of gasoline-powered lawn equipment for the performance of landscape maintenance of state government facilities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Many changes in first sub. Primarily creates a more structured timeline for phasing in use of electric equipment on government facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Still see this as a long shot.</i></p>	Air	Senate Government Operations Committee HELD	High	Support
<a href="#">SB131</a> Water Commitment Amendments	Sen. Blouin	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ permits a commitment of available water to uses on sovereign lands to be included in a water conservation plan.</li> </ul>	Water	Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee	High	Support
<a href="#">SB132</a> Electric Utility Amendments	Sen. Sandall	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ establishes requirements for submitting and processing large-scale electrical service requests;</li> <li>▶ requires the Public Service Commission to review large load contracts;</li> </ul>	Admin	Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee	High	<u>Oppose</u>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates requirements for electrical corporations serving large loads;</li> <li>▶ establishes registration and operating requirements for large-scale generation providers;</li> <li>▶ requires separate accounting for large load service costs;</li> <li>▶ prohibits cost shifting to other electrical customers; and</li> <li>▶ requires financial security and insurance for large-scale service.</li> </ul> <p><i>Change to OPPOSE. Essentially eliminates renewable energy sources as option for large scale generation providers. Thought here, this would allow sale of coal plants to private buyers to serve data centers.</i></p>				
<b><a href="#">SB139</a> Mineral Rights Amendments</b>	Rep. Winterton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ prohibits the taking of a fee simple interest in land if an easement interest suffices; and</li> <li>▶ requires for separate payment of just compensation for a mineral estate taken by eminent domain.</li> </ul>	Mining	Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee	Low	Neutral
<b>SENATE BILLS WEEK 1</b>						
<b><a href="#">SB158</a> Sale or Lease of Federally Managed Public Land Amendments</b>	Sen. Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides for monitoring of land applications;</li> <li>▶ requires a study of land application information;</li> <li>▶ requires a report of the results of the study.</li> </ul> <p><i>This is a study. I believe this is part of the bigger play to take federal land but no direct tie in as part of the legislation.</i></p>	Admin	Senate 1 <sup>st</sup> reading	Low	Oppose
<b><a href="#">SB159</a> Environmental Quality Modifications</b>	Sen. Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ prohibits approval of an operation plan or permit for certain nonhazardous solid waste landfill facilities unless specific conditions are met.</li> </ul>	Admin	Senate 1 <sup>st</sup> reading.	Low	Neutral

		<i>While this adds requirements for landfill design I do wonder if this is a part of a larger play to clear the way for out of state waste.</i>				
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