

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2025 General Legislative Session

Week 2

February 2, 2025

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.

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!

Weekly Update

Process reminder:

Bills originate in both chambers, House or Senate, with a 1st reading. Typically, they are then assigned to a committee for review. Passing the committee the bill is sent back to the originating chamber for a 2nd and/or 3rd reading and voting. If the bill passes it is sent to the other chamber and essentially goes through the same process.

If bills re not moving through this reading, committee, reading process it is sign that the bill may be in jeopardy. So, if you support a bill it is important to let you legislators know. Similarly, if a bill you oppose is progressing quickly through the process, you need to voice your disapproval or it could be too late.

Representative Casey Snider introduced two bills this week one clearly controversial, **HB355 Critical Infrastructure Materials Amendments**, and another that will need more investigation, HB378 Department of Natural Resources Amendments.

HB355 is a re-do of a similar bill from last year. Last year's bill aimed to protect the mining of "critical infrastructure

material” by eliminating any local jurisdiction on limiting such mines. There was strong objection and the bill ultimately became a study. The study was completed in November and reported that Utah has plenty of “critical infrastructure material” and it is well located that no extra mining is needed nor any need to limit local jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, it appears the results of this study are being ignored. HB355 is not as comprehensive as last year’s bill but it still removes local jurisdiction from mines that are vested and have an existing expansion plan. I am still investigating if this would allow the expansion of the Parley’s Canyon mine but even if not this bill is simply unnecessary at best.

Two other Rep. Snider bills introduced week 1 are still being discussed with him.

HB244 Wildlife Management Area Amendments: creates a Bear River WMA but also eliminates restrictions on dikes/levies and also opens WMA to certain water craft and

HB309 Wildlife Amendments which limits WMA access to those with hunting/fishing licenses and also prohibits a local authority from restricting hunting on a conservation easement.

Still more info to come on these two.

On Water

Representative Doug Owens water:

HB318 Residential Turf Amendments

HB328 Water Usage Amendments

HB330 Water Sprinkler Efficiency Amendments

are moving slowly. Please voice your support for these bills to your legislators.

Senator Blouin’s **SB131 Water Commitment Amendments**, which allows a municipality to commit saved water to sovereign lands as part of a conservation plan was presented in committee. Again, members outside the GSL basin raised concerns and while the bill passed the committee, I believe Sen. Blouin will need to make some significant changes for any chance of passage.

On Mining

Bills continue to be introduced to subsidize/protect mining, in all forms. Rep. Sniders HB355 already discussed and Sen. Stevenson’s **SB187 Critical Mineral’s Amendments** are the two most recent. But, bills introduced previously continue to work their way through the process. Led by Sen. Stevenson, the message on these bills is JOBS in RURAL areas despite evidence that these are not significant economic impacts at a local level.

Appropriations:

Another busy week on asks for appropriations. I will provide a deeper look next week as there should be more complete reporting.

BILL TRACKING LIST

Position: Underline means initial position ... investigating further and position may change.

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
HOUSE BILLS PRE-SESSION						
HB18 Petroleum Storage Tank Amendments	Rep. Steve Eliason	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ changes terms "underground" and "petroleum" as appropriate; ▶ provides that the Petroleum Storage Tank Restricted Account earns interest to be deposited into that account; ▶ addresses registration of underground storage tanks and aboveground petroleum storage tanks; ▶ addresses the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund, including authorization to request certain legislative appropriations; ▶ modifies assessment of an environmental assurance fee based on the cash balance of the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund; ▶ modifies the petroleum storage tank fee provisions; ▶ provides for certificates of compliance; ▶ clarifies restrictions on petroleum storage tank installation companies; ▶ directs certain monies be deposited into the Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup Fund; 	Admin	Passed House to Senate	Low	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses claims not covered by the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund; ▶ clarifies language regarding liability; ▶ addresses eligibility for participation in the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund; and ▶ makes technical and conforming amendments. <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>				
HB26 Road Jurisdiction Amendments	Rep. Karen M. Peterson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ removes certain roads as state highways; and ▶ modifies the description of certain state highways. <p><i>Technical changes to highway names.</i></p>	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Transportation Comm w Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>2nd Reading</p>	Low	Support
HB34 State Campground Amendments	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	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>2nd Reading</p>	Low	Support
HB36 Provo Canyon Resource Management Plan Amendments	Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion	<p>This bill extends the sunset date for the section related to the Provo Canyon resource management plan.</p>	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>2nd Reading</p>	Low	Support

<p>HB41 State Water Policy Amendments 1st Sub</p>	<p>Rep. Carl Albrecht</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses water quality in groundwater; ▶ removes language related to balancing certain values or needs in water policy; ▶ encourages monitoring of watersheds; ▶ promotes state water planning; ▶ accounts for regionally appropriate water reuse; and ▶ makes technical changes. <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. Oppose elimination of verbiage on principle.</i></p> <p><i>Text has been added back to bill. SUPPORT.</i></p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation 24 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB46 Water Rights Applications Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Doug Owens</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses time frames related to reinstatement of a lapsed application; and ▶ makes technical changes. 	<p>Water</p>	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation 24 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>HB47 Public Lands Watering Rights Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Carl Albrecht</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ repeals language regarding livestock water use certificates; ▶ addresses when a federal land management agency reduces livestock grazing animal unit month (AUMs); ▶ addresses a claim under Public Water Reserve No. 107; and ▶ makes technical and conforming changes. <p><i>Complex legal water rights issue.</i></p>	<p>Land Use</p>	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation 24 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Neutral</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> <p><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></p>				
<p>HB48 Wildland Urban Interface Modifications 2nd sub</p>	<p>Rep. Casey Snider</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ requires counties to take certain actions related to wildland urban interface property, including assessing a fee; ▸ directs the fee to be retained by a county or deposited into the Wildland-urban Interface Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation Fund; ▸ addresses insuring wildland urban interface property; ▸ imposes notice requirements related to insuring wildland urban interface property; ▸ requires counties and municipalities to adopt the wildland urban interface building code standards; ▸ permits the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) to choose not to cover costs of local governments under certain circumstances; ▸ directs the division to establish a program for wildland urban interface coordinators to evaluate, using a triage scale, high risk wildland urban interface property; 	<p>Admin</p>	<p>Passed House Business, Labor, Commerce Comm w Favorable Recommendation 31 Jan 25</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Support</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses actions related to evaluating the high-risk wildland urban interface property; ▶ provides for a database to be accessed by certain insurers related to evaluating high risk wildland urban interface property; ▶ authorizes rulemaking; ▶ addresses liability; and ▶ makes technical changes. <p><i>Establishes fees for development near wildland to address fire hazard risks.</i></p>				
HB67 Precious Metals Investment and Administration Amendments	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. This seems a mechanism to buy gold.</i></p>	Admin	<p>Passed House to Senate</p> <p>Assigned to Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee</p>	Low	Oppose
HB70 Decommissioned Asset Disposition Amendments	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>
HB72 Electricity Rate Amendments	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</p>	Coal	<p>Passed House Public Utilities Committee with Favorable Recommendation 22 Jan 25</p> <p>Passed House to Senate</p>	Low	Support

		<p>energy balancing account provisions for costs incurred before December 31, 2024.</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 certainly mean more emphasis by RMP on fossil fuels.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Balancing Account is confusing and ultimately allows RMP to increase costs outside of rates. A more appropriate mechanism is needed.</i></p>				
<p>HB85 Environmental Permitting Modifications 1st sub</p>	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	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	Low	Oppose
<p>HB89 Water Transfer Amendments 1st sub</p>	Rep. G. Bennion	<p>This bill prohibits the transfer of water shares via small estate probate procedures involving an affidavit.</p>	Water	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 29 Jan 25</p>	Low	Support

				House 2 nd reading		
HB103 Public Land Access Road Amendments	Rep. T. Shelley	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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; ▶ requires PLPCO and SITLA to record with the relevant county recorder's office notice of the access roads relevant to state lands; ▶ exempts class A, class B, and class C roads from the notice requirements; and ▶ codifies a provision to ensure that title to a class D road abandoned by a county reverts to the state. <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>	Road	House 1 st reading	Low	Oppose
HB115 State Park Funding Amendments	Rep. W. Brooks	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ allows interest earned on the money in the State Park Fees Restricted Account to remain in the account. <p><i>Creates more funds for state parks through interest.</i></p>	Land	<p>Passed House Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 26 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	Low	Support
HB119 Solar Panel Restrictions in Homeowners Associations Amendments	Rep. D. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ stops a homeowner's association from prohibiting solar panel installation; and ▶ authorizes a homeowner's association to restrict solar panel installation. 	Solar	Assigned to House Political Subdivisions Comm	Low	Support

HB147 Aquatic Invasive Species	Rep. Shipp	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. <p><i>Exempts nonmotorized boats and inflatable motorized from the inspection fee.</i></p>	Admin	House 1 st reading	Low	Neutral
HB153 Hunting Requirements	Rep. Shipp	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ allows for compensating up to three individuals in locating or monitoring the location of big game animals on public land; ▶ provides an exemption under certain circumstances for an individual disclosing the location of a big game animal; ▶ clarifies effect of violating provisions related to compensating people to locate big game animals. <p><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></p>	Admin	House 1 st reading	Low	Support
HB157 Energy Education Amendments	Rep. C. Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ requires the Office of Energy Development (office) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •develop and maintain energy education programs and curricula for grades K-12; •develop and provide professional development training for educators; •develop energy related workforce development programs; and •establish the Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force ▶ outlines the responsibilities and duties of the task force; and ▶ requires the office to report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology 	Admin	House 2 nd reading Circled	Low	Oppose

		Interim Committee. <i>Content is not specified but seems means to establish "coal first" education. Will monitor committee conversations.</i>				
HB174 Water Rights Restricted Account	Rep. Albrecht	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ addresses money for obtaining legal support. <i>Allows funds in the restricted account to be used for legal services.</i> <i>Primarily the funds in the account are for studies and monitoring of water and infrastructure.</i> <i>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>	Admin	Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm	Low	<u>Oppose</u>
HB185 Railroad Modifications	Rep. Clancy	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ requires the Division of Air Quality (division) to conduct an inventory related to emissions from railyards in certain counties in the state; ▸ requires the division to propose an emissions reduction plan for emissions from certain railroad locomotives to be implemented by December 31, 2027; ▸ requires the division to recommend state action for implementing the emissions reduction plan; and ▸ requires the division to report on the inventory, plan, and recommendations. <i>This bill initiates a STUDY.</i>	Air	House 1 st reading	High	Support
HB201 Energy Resource Amendments	Rep. Jack	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ requires full cost attribution for supplemental resources in integrated resource plans; ▸ establishes requirements for calculating generation capacity; 	Coal	Assigned to House Public Utilities Comm	High	<u>Oppose</u>

		<p>▶ prohibits certain involuntary demand management programs.</p> <p><i>Again, complex but hard not to read as a means to de-incentive non fossil fuel energy options.</i></p>				
HB212 Grid Enhancing Technology 1 st sub	Rep. Watkins	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ outlines cost-effectiveness analyses and approval procedures when a large-scale electric utility (utility) proposes grid enhancement deployment; and ▶ provides that a utility may recover approved costs. <p><i>Provides for a financial incentive if an electricity generator implements grid enhancing technology.</i></p>	Energy	<p>Passed House Public Utilities Comm w Favorable Recommendation 30 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	Low	Support
HB229 Transportation Funds Amendments	Rep. Christofferson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ amends provisions related to corridor preservation to include fixed guideway public transit facilities for corridor preservation. <p><i>This bill clarifies that funds in the corridor preservation fund can be used to purchase land for train paths (fixed guideways) for the future.</i></p>	Land Use	<p>Passed House Transportation Comm with Favorable Recommendation 29 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	Low	Support
HB241 Solar Power Plan Amendments	Rep. Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ establishes location and design standards for solar power plants; ▶ sets requirements for lot size, height, setbacks, noise levels, and visual appearance; ▶ prohibits solar power plants in certain areas; ▶ requires a decommissioning plan and fund; ▶ establishes a permit application and review process; and ▶ provides for severability. <p><i>These changes significantly limit solar production facilities in Utah.</i></p>	Solar	House	High	<u>Oppose</u>

<p>HB243 Agriculture Water Optimization Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Snider</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ allows the Agricultural Water Optimization Committee to use certain money to fund research; ▶ modifies eligibility requirements related to grants for agricultural water optimization; and ▶ makes technical and conforming amendments. <p><i>More uses of water optimization fund.</i></p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>House 1st reading</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>HB244 Wildlife Management Area Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Snider</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ directs the creation of a wildlife management area known as the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area; ▶ provides limits and requirements related to the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area; ▶ removes restrictions on impounding structures in certain waterfowl management areas; ▶ removes prohibitions related to the regulation of airboats or small watercraft in certain waterfowl management areas. <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>	<p>Habitat</p>	<p>House 1st reading</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><u>Watch</u></p>
<p>HB249 Nuclear Power Amendments 1st sub</p>	<p>Rep. Albrecht</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ creates the Nuclear Energy Consortium within the Office of Energy Development (office) and establishes its membership and duties; ▶ creates the Utah Energy Council within the office and establishes its membership and duties; ▶ modifies the duties and name of the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab Board; ▶ establishes a process for designating electrical energy development zones; 	<p>Nuclear</p>	<p>Passed House Public Utilities Comm With Favorable Recommendation 27 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

		<p>▶ creates the Electrical Energy Development Investment Fund and provides for its administration; and</p> <p>▶ establishes authorized uses of fund money.</p> <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 facilitate the generation of electrical transmission.</i></p> <p><i>While this bill does create incentives for all energy types, it does specifically set out processes to facilitate nuclear. Bill received verbal support in committee from democrats.</i></p> <p><i>However, it was raised in public comment that this bill incentivizes nuclear but no complimentary bill on managing the by-products. I believe this a fair statement. Seems this bill still needs work.</i></p> <p><i>I Position as OPPOSE but also LOW priority.</i></p>				
HB255 Local Land Use Modifications	Rep. Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <p>▶ 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;</p> <p>▶ provides that a minor subdivision lot may not be less than 500 feet from another minor subdivision lot within the same divided agricultural property.</p>	Land Use	House	Low	Oppose

		<i>Appears a means to ease agricultural land sub-division for development.</i>				
HOUSE BILLS WEEK 1						
HB274 Water Amendments	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ provides circumstances of when a municipality may set different water rates based in part on water conservation; ▶ addresses impact fees and impact fee facilities plans related to water; ▶ addresses rate setting by a retail water supplier; ▶ provides for how revenues from retail rates may be spent; ▶ creates a presumption regarding the reasonableness of certain water rates that include water conservation as an element in determining the rate; ▶ modifies provisions related to the Board of Water Resources; ▶ addresses tiered rates for secondary water. <p><i>Overall, very positive bill. Rep. Snider was very interested and supportive of the water study, presented to committee in November 24, that 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>Object: 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>	Water	House 1 st reading	High	<p>Support</p> <p>But Object to line 885.</p>
HB285 Water Infrastructure Amendments	Rep. Snider	This bill:	Water	Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ repeals the Water Resources Cities Water Loan Fund and provides that loan repayments go into the Water Infrastructure Fund; ▶ authorizes transfers of money in water funds and accounts to and from the Water Infrastructure Fund; ▶ requires capital asset management plans and reserve funding under certain circumstances; ▶ modifies definitions, including the definition of "relevant agency"; ▶ addresses the water infrastructure prioritization process, including exemptions from the process. <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>Change to SUPPORT but watch at this point. Need to understand how this implementation differs from original plan of HB280. Does it address concerns with centralized decision making presented last year? Does it implement per study completed in November?</i></p>				
HB304 Livestock Watering Modifications	Rep. Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ establishes the requirements to apply for a certificate recognizing certain livestock watering uses; ▶ directs the state engineer's actions with regard to a certificate for livestock watering use; 	Admin	House 1 st reading	Low	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses the effect of a certificate for a livestock watering use; ▶ provides for rulemaking; and ▶ makes technical and conforming amendments. <p><i>Bill recognizes water use for grazing as a water share. Essentially replaces a previous certificating process.</i></p>				
HB306 Precious Metals Amendments	Rep. Ivory	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ extends and adds a sunset date to the state treasurer's precious metals study requirement; ▶ requires the state treasurer to develop and issue a request for proposals for a precious metals-backed electronic payment system; ▶ establishes requirements for the request for proposals; ▶ requires the state treasurer to evaluate proposals; and ▶ requires annual reporting to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee. <p><i>Further reading this seems like move to gold standard.</i></p>	Admin	Assigned to House Business, Labor and Commerce Comm	Low	Oppose
HB309 Wildlife Amendments	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ addresses night hunting of nonprotected wildlife; ▶ provides limits on a political subdivision or conservation easement prohibiting or restricting hunting; ▶ imposes requirements for holding a hunting or combination license for service on the Wildlife Board or a regional advisory council; ▶ addresses target shooting on wildlife management areas; ▶ addresses definition of and access to wildlife management areas; ▶ modifies provisions related to Department of Agriculture and Food's activities related to 	Admin	House 1 st reading	Low	<u>Watch</u>

		<p>livestock depredation and big game protection;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ corrects a definition of "big game"; ▶ addresses feeding of big game. <p><i>Primarily hunting regulations.</i></p> <p><i>This bill can be read to limit WMA access for hunting/fishing only (lines 670-677), would exclude birding. Also, lines 383-392 essentially removes right of local jurisdictions to prohibit hunting on a conservation easement. Needs further investigation.</i></p> <p><i>National Audubon is in discussion with representative Snider. Expecting a substitution.</i></p>				
HB311 Watershed Amendments	Rep. Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ allows the state engineer to require the repair or construction of certain hydroelectric facilities to prevent waste, loss, pollution, or contamination of waters; ▶ requires an owner or operator of a hydroelectric facility to maintain the facility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •prevent waste of water, damage to property, and injury to others; and •mitigate environmental impacts; ▶ addresses liability of an owner or operator of a hydroelectric facility; ▶ clarifies that water stored in a reservoir or body of water for power generation may only be used for power generation. 	Admin	House	High	Support
HB318 Residential Turf Amendments	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ requires a municipality or county to adopt lawn or turf restrictions for certain newly constructed residences; ▶ allows a municipality or county to adopt more restrictive limitations. 	Water	Assigned to House Political Subdivisions Comm	High	<u>Support</u>

		<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>				
HB319 Natural Resources Survey Amendments	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ requires the Department of Natural Resources (department) every two years to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •survey all state-owned and federally-managed land in this state; and •create and maintain an inventory of land that the state may develop as outdoor recreation infrastructure; ▸ requires the department to identify and recommend federally-managed land that the state may acquire or manage for outdoor recreation infrastructure; ▸ allows the department to request assistance from state and federal entities to complete the survey and inventory; ▸ requires the department to submit a report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Interim Committee in each survey year. <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 actually survey land to determine usability vs pure land grab.</i></p>	Land Use	House	High	<u>Support</u>
HB328 Water Usage Amendments	Rep. Owens	This bill:	Water	House	High	<u>Support</u>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ directs a municipality or county to require compliance with a prohibition on use of overhead spray irrigation as part of land use approvals; ▶ requires a municipality or county to give notice of the prohibition on use of overhead spray irrigation; ▶ encourages a municipality or county to review certain plans, act on the plans, inspect for compliance, and address noncompliance; and ▶ prohibits for new development and redevelopment the use of overhead spray irrigation except under certain circumstances. 				
HB330 Water Sprinkler Efficiency Amendments	Rep. Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ prohibits certain activities related to spray sprinkler bodies; ▶ provides exceptions; and ▶ creates an enforcement process. <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	Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm	High	<u>Support</u>
HOUSE BILLS WEEK 2						
HB345 State Park Road Amendments	Rep. Sawyer	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ adds descriptions of highways near certain state parks. 	Admin	House	Low	Support
HB352 Geologic Carbon Storage Amendments	Rep. Watkins	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ clarifies that the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining (board) has enforcement authority over Class VI injection wells upon receiving primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency; ▶ provides for civil and criminal penalties for violations established by the board and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (division); ▶ requires the board and the division to bring an enforcement action within two years of discovering a violation. 	Admin	House	Low	Support

<p>HB355 Critical Infrastructure Materials Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Snider</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ modifies vested critical infrastructure materials use provisions to make them similar to vested mining provisions; ▶ addresses operations on new land; ▶ repeals redundant notice requirements; ▶ repeals study requirements. <p><i>This seems a follow up to Snider’s Critical Infrastructure Materials bill last year. While muted vs that version still takes decision making on mine expansion away from local jurisdiction. My read, may allow expansion of Parley’s.</i></p>	<p>Mining</p>	<p>House 1st reading</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><u>Oppose</u></p>
<p>HB378 Department of Natural Resources Funding Amendments</p>	<p>Rep. Snider</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ expands resources to be deposited into the Species Protection Account; ▶ modifies the brine shrimp royalty rate; ▶ provides for deposit of brine shrimp royalty into the Sovereign Lands Management Account; ▶ accounts for a tax on concentrated depleted uranium received for disposal at a radioactive waste facility to be deposited into the Species Protection Account; ▶ imposes a tax on wind or solar electric generation facilities to be deposited into the Species Protection Account; ▶ provides a tax on direct current transmission facilities to be deposited into the Species Protection Account; ▶ addresses the effect of the taxes on ratepayers; ▶ authorizes rulemaking. <p><i>This bill creates a complicated outcome. The Species Protection Fund funds good environmental work but also funds legal challenges to federal requirements. I will dig into this more over the next week to understand impacts.</i></p>	<p>Admin</p>	<p>House 1st reading</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><u>Oppose</u></p>

HB386 Public Waters Access Amendments	Rep. Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ modifies the definition of "navigable water"; ▶ addresses public recreation access; ▶ addresses when a stream bed is considered private property; ▶ clarifies when an easement for public recreational access is created. <p><i>Bill introduced on Friday, 31 Jan, I will review to better understand. My first reading is that this actually clarifies and increases access to public waters on private property.</i></p>	Land Use	House	Low	<u>Watch</u>
RESOLUTIONS PRE-SESSION						
HCR1 House Concurrent Resolution Regarding the Grand County Water Conservancy District	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. <p><i>This resolution would be to have BLM transfer the water line to GCWD once it is no longer used for the remediation project. Would provide water to two towns in south east Utah.</i></p>	Water	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>	Low	Support
SCR3 Senate Concurrent Resolution Regarding Utah's Authority to Determine its Energy Future	Sen. Harper	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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; ▶ asserts Utah's right to play a primary role in determining energy policies within its borders, including decisions about energy development and facility siting; ▶ calls upon the federal government to recognize states' constitutional authority and superior 	Energy	Senate 1 st reading	Low	Oppose

		<p>positioning to make location-specific decisions about energy projects;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ urges the federal government to limit its role in energy regulation to matters of interstate commerce and national security; ▶ requests meaningful, early, and ongoing consultation between federal agencies and states when developing energy-related policies or regulations; ▶ encourages Congress to pass legislation requiring federal agencies to demonstrate adequate consultation with states before implementing energy-related regulations; and ▶ calls for the creation of formal mechanisms for state input in federal energy policy decisions. 				
SENATE BILLS PRE-SESSION						
SB30 Forest Fire Resources Compacts Amendments	Sen. Derrin Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ empowers the governor to enter into the compact related to forest fires in the form provided in statute. 	Admin	<p>Passed Senate to House</p> <p>Passed House Nat Resources Committee with Favorable Recommendation 29 Jan 25</p> <p>House 2nd reading</p>	Low	Neutral
SB33 Water Rights Recording Amendments	Sen. Evan Vickers	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ allows certain signatures to be by facsimile or electronic means; and ▶ makes technical changes. 	Water	<p>Passed Senate to House</p> <p>Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm</p>	Low	Support
SB34 Mineral Surety Study	Sen. Derrin Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ defines "surety" for purpose of the study; 	Mining	Passed Senate to House	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ requires the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (division) to study certain surety issues; ▶ directs the division to make a report; and ▶ provides a repeal date. <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>		Assigned to House Natural Resources Comm		
SB36 Water Quality Board Modifications	Sen. Todd Weiler	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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 ▶ authorizes the Utah Water Quality Board to issue a final order establishing a reasonable penalty in ongoing settlement negotiations. <p><i>Specific changes to address disputes.</i></p>	Water	Senate Circled	Low	Support
SB51 State Resource Plan Modifications	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	<p>Passed Senate to House</p> <p>House 1st reading</p>	Low	Support
SB61 Energy Corridor Amendments 2 nd sub	Sen. D.R. Owens	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ requires a person filing an eminent domain action for certain telecommunications, electric light, and electric power infrastructure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct an infrastructure siting analysis; and • coordinate with federal land management agencies before pursuing condemnation of private lands; ▶ modifies the requirements for certain eminent domain complaints to include infrastructure 	Land Use	<p>Passed Senate Transportation, Pub Util, Energy and Tech Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>	Low	Oppose

		<p>siting analysis and federal agency coordination documentation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ 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. <p><i>Further investigation this creates process to allow eminent domain use for power companies.</i></p>				
SB62 Spaceport Exploration Committee 1st Sub	Sen. J. Stevenson	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ creates the Spaceport Exploration Committee; and ▸ establishes membership and duties of the committee. <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>Passed Senate to House</p> <p>House 1st reading</p>	Low	Neutral
SB63 Waste Tire Recycling	Sen. E. Vickers	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ exempts landfills from restrictions on accepting waste tires if the landfill uses a mobile facility to reduce the size of waste tires; ▸ allows shredded or chipped waste tires to be disposed of in a landfill; ▸ 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. <p><i>This bill clarifies and adds requirements on allowing tires to be disposed in landfills. Does not allow disposal not already in statute.</i></p>	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Nat Resources Committee w Favorable Recommendation</p> <p>31 Jan 25</p>	Low	Support
SB80 Drinking Water Amendments	Sen. Sandall	This bill:	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Natural</p>	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a fee schedule; ▶ outlines requirements related to the fee schedule; ▶ allows the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a financial incentive to comply with certain criteria; ▶ provides for the collection of fees; ▶ creates an exemption related to wholesale water suppliers; ▶ provides that fees are treated as dedicated credits; and ▶ requires monitoring of fees. <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>		<p>Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>		
SB92 Golf Course Amendments	Sen. McCay	<p>This bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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 Government Records Access and Management Act; ▶ defines terms; ▶ requires a study of water use by golf courses; 	Water	Senate 2 nd reading	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ outlines a process to be followed in conducting and reporting on the study; ▶ requires the Division of State Parks to develop a master plan for state-owned golf courses and to report on the master plan. <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>				
SB124 Landscaping Procurement Amendments 2 nd sub	Sen. Pitcher	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ creates a timeline of increasing prohibitions on the use of gasoline-powered lawn equipment for the performance of landscape maintenance of state government facilities. <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
SB131 Water Commitment Amendments	Sen. Blouin	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ permits a commitment of available water to uses on sovereign lands to be included in a water conservation plan. <p><i>Once again committee members outside the GSL Basin expressed objections. My belief is those that objected do not understand this bill. Their particular concern was sovereign lands.</i></p> <p><i>Sen Blouin agreed to narrow to GSL instead of sovereign lands.</i></p>	Water	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>	High	Support

<p>SB132 Electric Utility Amendments</p>	<p>Sen. Sandall</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ establishes requirements for submitting and processing large-scale electrical service requests; ▶ requires the Public Service Commission to review large load contracts; ▶ creates requirements for electrical corporations serving large loads; ▶ establishes registration and operating requirements for large-scale generation providers; ▶ requires separate accounting for large load service costs; ▶ prohibits cost shifting to other electrical customers; and ▶ requires financial security and insurance for large-scale service. <p><i>Change to OPPOSE. Essentially eliminates renewable energy sources as option for large scale generation providers. Thought here is to allow sale of coal plants to private buyers to serve data centers.</i></p>	<p>Admin</p>	<p>Assigned to Senate Nat Resources Committee</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><u>Oppose</u></p>
<p>SB139 Mineral Rights Amendments 1st sub</p>	<p>Rep. Winterton</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ prohibits the taking of a fee simple interest in land if an easement interest suffices; and ▶ requires for separate payment of just compensation for a mineral estate taken by eminent domain. <p><i>Interesting bill but essentially speaks to ownership of land taken by UDOT for road construction. UDOT feels important to have ownership of land under a road, which makes sense.</i></p> <p><i>Expect further substitutions and changes so may change. But overall a low priority given minimal environmental impact.</i></p>	<p>Mining</p>	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Oppose</p>

SENATE BILLS WEEK 1						
SB158 Sale or Lease of Federally Managed Public Land Amendments	Sen. Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ provides for monitoring of land applications; ▶ requires a study of land application information; ▶ requires a report of the results of the study. <p><i>The Federal Recreation & Public Purposes Act allows BLM to sell up to 26,000 acres. Utah already takes advantage of this and this study would simply be an inventory of land taken through this act.</i></p>	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm with Favorable Recommendation 28 Jan 25</p> <p>Senate 2nd reading</p>	Low	Support
SB159 Environmental Quality Modifications 1 st sub	Sen. Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ prohibits approval of an operation plan or permit for certain nonhazardous solid waste landfill facilities unless specific conditions are met. <p><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></p> <p><i>Further investigation no negative intent behind the bill ... move to Support.</i></p>	Admin	<p>Passed Senate Nat Resources Committee w Favorable Recommendation 31 Jan 25</p>	Low	Support
SENATE BILLS WEEK 2						
SB184 Diesel Emissions Reduction Amendments	Sen. Escamilla	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ directs the Division of Air Quality (division) to create a voluntary registry for certain non-road diesel engines; ▶ prevents the division from paying a replacement incentive to an owner of a non-road diesel engine not on the registry; ▶ requires a registrant of a non-road diesel engine to pay a registration fee; ▶ requires the division to deposit registration fees into the Environmental Mitigation and Response Fund; 	Air	<p>Assigned to Senate Transportation, Pub Util, Energy and Tech Comm</p>	High	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ grants the division rulemaking authority to implement the provisions. 				
SB187 Critical Minerals Amendments	Sen. Stevenson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ provides for the Legislature appropriating money from the Throughput Infrastructure Fund; ▶ addresses the provision of financial assistance to an industry within mining. <p><i>While this bill primarily adds funds to an existing economic development program account it also exempts specific mining materials from the detailed requirements to comply.</i></p>	Mining	Passed Senate Natural Resources Comm w Favorable Recommendation	High	<u>Oppose</u>