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UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Weekly Newsletter of RRJ Consulting
Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm



WEEK 6 OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Another week has come and gone and we've been busy at work to ensure our legislation is passed and our appropriations are funded. With only one week left in the session, committee meetings and floor times are running late into the evening and the pace has significantly picked up. We'll be much happier, less stressed, and well-rested come this time next week!

UKRAINE

We've watched the events in Ukraine unfold this week in disbelief and sorrow. Many lobbyists, stakeholders, and lawmakers have been personally impacted by the invasion. Rep. Teuscher lead the House in a moment of silence and Senators paid their respects. Ukraine is in our hearts and we pray for peace and safety.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday, the Executive Appropriations Committee met to finalize its recommendations for the 2022-23 state budget. One of the Legislature's main responsibilities each year is to craft a balanced budget that meets the various needs of the state. It's a complex process, to say the least! The full Legislature will vote on the budget next week. Here are a few highlights:

- A 9% increase in the public education budget
- \$193 million income tax cut
- \$55 million to establish the COVID-19 Homeless Housing and Services Grant Program
- \$40 million to create a trust for Great Salt Lake preservation.
- Over \$38 million for the creation of an account to fund Utah's outdoor recreation assets.

AIR QUALITY LEGISLATION

We were excited to see HB 405 pass the House this week and hope to see it make its way through the Senate. We all know Utah has some of the worst air quality in the nation. We've worked to improve that, but there is still much progress to be made. A significant contributor to Salt Lake's air pollution is railroad switchers. HB 405 requires switchers in the state to be wholly powered by hydrogen or electric power by January 2028.

HB 326 also passed the House this week and we'll watch it as it moves through the process. This bill creates a grant pilot program to award businesses for implementing projects that address air quality and water conservation.

Legislation was also passed this week that addresses Utah's Inland Port. HB 443 makes provisions in place to help make Utah's port the cleanest and greenest in the world.



GENERATIONAL INVESTMENTS

As the state looks forward, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make large-scale investments. The following bills will ensure our kids and grandkids continue to enjoy the quality of life we know and love.

- HB 409 Recreation Infrastructure Amendments: Establishes sustainable funding for outdoor recreation across the state.
- HB 443 Utah Inland Port Authority Amendments: Aligns the UIPA board with its statewide mission & creates a process for the Port and local municipalities to work together to bring about economic, environmental, and community benefits.

UTAH FOOTBALL TEAM

The Senate and House of Representatives welcomed the University of Utah Football team this week. They celebrated them for their historic season as Pac 12 champions and making an appearance in the Rose Bowl. They also honored the team's late teammates.

Looking Ahead

NEXT WEEK – THE LEGISLATURE WILL PASS THE FINAL STATE BUDGET

MARCH 2 – FINAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MARCH 2 – LAST DAY FOR BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED FROM THEIR OWN CHAMBER

MARCH 3 – FINAL DAY FOR BILLS WITH MORE THAN A \$10,000 FISCAL NOTE TO BE CONSIDERED

MARCH 4 – FINAL DAY OF THE 2022 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MARCH 5 – BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF
