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# UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Monthly Newsletter of RRJ Consulting  
*Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm*



## EXCITING NEWS

This month, the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees elected RRJ's very own, Jodi Hart-Wilson as Chair. We are proud of Jodi and recognize her for her dedication to students and education.

"As an SUU alumna, I remember hoping at my graduation that one day I would be able to give back to a university that has given me so much. Everything that I learned at SUU has been a springboard for my life. This is an exciting time at SUU and I'm thrilled to be in a position to make a difference for future generations of SUU T-Birds." – Jodi Hart-Wilson

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We hope you're having a fun and safe summer surrounded by family and loved ones. Please reach out if you need anything. We love representing you and the great state of Utah.

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## CAPITOL TOUR

We were excited to show a group of bankers around the Utah State Capitol. We discussed the importance of banking, the legislative process, and how they can participate in the policymaking process.



# POLICY HIGHLIGHT

## WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT THE GREAT SALT LAKE?

You have probably heard about the Great Salt Lake – the largest lake west of the Mississippi, up to ten times saltier than the ocean, and the namesake of Utah's Capitol city. Not only is the lake a photographer's dream shoot and a tourist's bucket list destination, but more significantly, the lake has a widespread impact on Utah's economy, environment, and everyday life. The Great Salt Lake has recently reached record-low levels, something we should all be concerned about.

### **Economy**

The Great Salt Lake Advisory Council estimates the lake contributes nearly \$1.5 billion to Utah's economy annually, specifically from its rich mineral extraction including lithium, titanium, magnesium, and potash, essential elements found in many day-to-day materials. Additionally, 7,000 jobs directly rely on the lake with thousands more indirectly connected. A dried-up lake could cost the state up to \$35 billion over the next twenty years.

### **Environment**

Dust storms become increasingly prevalent as the lake bed dries up, exacerbating Utah's air quality challenges. Hazardous materials will blow throughout our most populous counties and impact the health of thousands of Utahns.

### **Everyday Life**

Not only does Utah have economic and environmental ramifications from a drying lake, but our everyday lives will also be impacted. For example, Utah's famous ski season will be cut short by a decrease in snowfall.

While the challenge may seem daunting, state and federal leaders are working alongside experts and researchers to pass policies that will make a significant difference in preserving the Great Salt Lake. Last session, the Legislature invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the lake and passed legislation to study and address concerns. The conversation has only just begun. As one of the driest states in the nation, every Utahn must do their part to help conserve water, which will send more water downstream to the Great Salt Lake.

