

September 2022

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



SEPTEMBER INTERIM

September brings in the 4th quarter of the year and the final months before the next legislative session. The legislature met last week for interim meetings and discussed many committee bills that will be passed onto the general session. A full list of highlights can be found at le.utah.gov.



WATER

It's no secret – Utah is in a big drought and we need everyone to do their part. There are several things you can do such as creating a xeriscaped or water-wise yard, watering sparingly, and metering your water usage. Right now, you can receive a rebate for up to \$75 when you purchase an eligible WaterSense-labeled smart controller. Smart controllers reduce water waste by automatically adjusting how often and how long a landscape is watered based on local weather and landscape conditions. Learn more [here](#).

Even though summer is coming to an end, conserving water is here to stay.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

This month, the Utah State Senate confirmed Justice Jill Pohlman to the Utah Supreme Court. Congrats, Justice Pohlman!

POLICY HIGHLIGHT

ENERGY IN THE U.S. – THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Last month, Congress passed the massive *Inflation Reduction Act* strictly down party lines. It was sold as an attempt to reduce inflation for everyday Americans. However, also in the legislation were earth-changing energy policies. Unfortunately, this bill not only gives the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) even more control but could have lasting negative impacts on Utahns and our energy reliability and cost.

The bill, along with new regulations being pushed by the EPA, seeks to decommission fossil fuel resources at a rate that is simply unattainable for our energy needs. Companies like Rocky Mountain Power, Dominion Energy, and Utah's local municipal power companies have been meeting the milestones set out by the federally-approved state implication plan to transition to more renewable energy sources. However, tucked inside the *Inflation Reduction Act* was a new set of standards and essentially a more compressed transition schedule.

As a nation, transiting to renewable sources of energy is good for our air quality and will assist with a warming climate, but before we can and should fully transition - the security of our energy supply must be met. This is where the *Inflation Reduction Act* runs out of power and falls flat. The timeline set by the legislation and rules set by the EPA are unreachable and the risks far outweigh the benefits and ultimately consumers will be left to pay.

Renewable energy only makes up 12% of the nation's energy supply- a far cry from what our fossil fuels contribute and a fact lawmakers and federal bureaucrats seem to be forgetting. Energy security was threatened in the 1970s and this move will bring us back to a time when consumers had certain times they could heat their houses and turn on their lights.

Technology and infrastructure are still decades away from meeting the demand of our nation and transitioning fully away from fossil fuels may leave Utahns in the dark.

