

January 2023

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



WEEK TWO

Week two of the 2023 General Legislative Session has come to an end. Friday was the last day for lawmakers to submit Requests for Appropriations and all short titles for bills became public. We are following along closely as Senate and House members propose, debate, and pass policies that will impact our clients and the people of Utah. We're grateful for and appreciate your trust!

SUU DAY ON THE HILL

This week, we welcomed the Southern Utah University Thunderbirds to the Utah State Capitol for SUU Day on the Hill! As Chair of the SUU Board of Trustees, Jodi welcomed many of her colleagues and friends to the Capitol, including President Mindy Benson. We were excited to see so many students and highlight the great achievements of SUU.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Do you know someone who is making a difference in your community and should be recognized? Governor Cox is looking for nominations for the second annual Governor's Spirit of Service Award. Click [here](#) to help recognize someone. Nominations are due March 3rd!

WATER WEEK

Lawmakers have announced next week as "Utah Water Week" in which they'll be highlighting water legislation that will impact the entire state. We expect a strong emphasis on water conservation, agriculture optimization, education and outreach programs, and resources for Southern Utah. We'll highlight specifics next week, and will be watching closely as water is a top priority for the Governor, Senate, and House. Plus, it has a significant impact on all Utahns!

POLICY HIGHLIGHT

CREATE UTAH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Create Utah

This week, RRJ welcomed a group of bright students to the Capitol. We talked with the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee (more on this later) about Create Utah – an Adobe-sponsored program that gives 7-12th grade students access to digital and create tools such as Photoshop. We enjoyed spending time with these students and are proud of their success. We also acknowledge and appreciate Adobe's commitment to providing resources and educational tools to the rising generation.

Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee

The public education appropriations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Lincoln Fillmore and Rep. Susan Pulsipher, determines which education programs receive funding, in addition to the funding required under statute. The subcommittee and legislature already approved the base budget, meaning nearly \$5 billion has already been set aside for public education for the next fiscal year. Additionally, the subcommittee and legislature will allocate additional funds to public education over the coming weeks.

For specific programs to receive funding, lawmakers must fill out a Request for Appropriation, or RFA. The appropriations subcommittees then determine which funding requests to prioritize and ultimately fund. Create Utah is only one example of a funding request, amongst thousands of others.

A full list of Requests for Appropriations can be viewed [here](#). We will be following along closely over the coming weeks to watch as lawmakers determine how to spend state funds. As always, we will represent you on the Hill and do our best to ensure all your needs are met.

A big thanks to the students who visited with us this week – we hope to see you at the Capitol again soon!

