

Dean Cox, St. George, UT.

To Whom it May Concern:

As a life-long resident of Washington County, a current county commissioner and the former county administrator and head of emergency preparedness, I know firsthand how important it is to plan for the future and be prepared for the unknown. During an 18-year tenure, I served as Chair of the Washington County Local Emergency Planning Committee and as Chair of the Southwest Regional Response Team. I was appointed to the State 911 Committee for two terms and served as its Chair.

Ensuring our community has an adequate water supply is one of the fundamental roles of local government and water providers. That is why the Washington County Commissioners unanimously support the Lake Powell Pipeline.

Most southern Utah residents depend exclusively on the Virgin River basin to supply water. This water source is extremely vulnerable and variable. If a water quality or quantity problems arise with the Virgin River, it places us at great risk.

The Lake Powell Pipeline adds another reliable source of water (the Colorado River) to help ensure uninterrupted water delivery to homes and businesses now and in the future.

The Lake Powell Pipeline will also help protect against inevitable droughts by providing additional water supplies and allowing for more local storage. Our region has gone through 12 years of drought during the last 20 years.

Because of our arid climate and propensity to drought, our region also experiences wildfires. The additional water the Lake Powell Pipeline will store closer to our communities is critical for fire protection.

I urge FERC to proceed with the necessary approvals to issue a license for the Lake Powell Pipeline.

Sincerely,

Dean Cox, Commissioner
Washington County, Utah
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