



Washington County School District

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SUPERINTENDENT LARRY G. BERGESON, M.ED.

October 29, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP). I am pleased that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has indicated the project is Ready for Environmental Assessment. We are eager to get the project permitted and built, as our school system depends on a reliable supply of water.

As the provider of public educational services in Washington County, we are dependent on state and local revenues to educate our students. An adequate water supply is critical to supporting the population and tax base needed to meet these fiscal requirements.

Southern Utah has experienced significant growth in the past 10 years and the region is projected to increase 229 percent by 2065. Over the past 10 years, we have seen enrollment increase as much as 7.4 percent in one year. Our current enrollment is more than 30,000 students in K-12 grades. Multiple new schools have recently opened or are in the process of being built.

We recognize we live in an arid region. Washington County is the hottest and driest county in Utah. The LPP does not replace the need for aggressive water conservation. We have seen significant reductions in water use and have one of the most aggressive conservation goals in the west. From 2010-2015, our community saved 1 billion gallons of water while the population increased 13 percent.

The water that the LPP will provide is critical to families today and will help ensure that there are local jobs and career opportunities available to our students in the future. Without a reliable supply of water, our ability to serve the growing population is limited, and both our population and tax-generating sources will diminish.

Our children are the future of this community. We want them to thrive today, build their careers here and be productive citizens. The LPP will supply water to this generation and the next. The majority of our future growth will come from our students' children and their grandchildren. We want to provide job opportunities, state of the art education and a quality of life that encourages them to stay here in southern Utah.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage FERC to advance this project.

Sincerely,



Larry Bergeson
Superintendent

