

Stephen P Radmall, St George, UT.

To the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

My name is Steve Radmall and I am president and shareholder of Savage Esplin and Radmall, PC, a local public accounting firm. I am a 28-year resident of Washington County and have raised my family here. I am very much invested in this wonderful area and I have a keen interest in maintaining an adequate water supply for future generations as this area continues to grow. I am appreciative of the men and women who had the foresight to plan for our current water supply.

I am writing to respectfully request the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to advance the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) by completing the environmental assessment and issuing its license.

I have studied this issue in depth and have tried to listen to reasoning from parties both in favor and opposed to the pipeline. Based on my understanding of the issues, I have concluded that it is vital for our region to build the LPP to enhance the reliability of Washington County's water supplies. LPP will introduce a much-needed source of water as our region continues to experience droughts and potential other natural catastrophic events. Washington County is the hottest and driest county in Utah. St. George receives an average of 8 inches of rain annually. Conservation is an important part of any future water planning and will continue to a focal point of any water planning in our area; however, conservation alone will not be enough to support the demands of an ever-growing population.

Having an adequate and reliable water supply system is critical for the economic viability of our communities. As our cities continue growing, they will become more dependent on regional water projects like the LPP. In addition, Washington County receives millions of visitors annually that contribute millions of dollars to our economy – these visitors, and all the businesses and services that support them, depend on water.

I am familiar with the 2006 Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act passed by the Utah legislature which spells out how the project will be funded by the state and repaid by participating districts. As a CPA, I have heard presentations about several potential financing options for the LPP that rely on varying combinations of water rates, system connection impact fees, property taxes and/or the sales of surplus assets. I have confidence in the Washington County Water Conservation District to evaluate these options, with continued input from local and regional stakeholders.

Based on my understanding of the financing terms from the State of Utah and the plan to equitably distribute the costs of the project on both current and future residents based on their individual increase to water demand, I feel like the LPP is the most cost-effective and reliable way to meet our water supply needs.

To ensure southern Utah has enough water for the future, I urge you to complete the environmental assessment for the Lake Powell Pipeline as quickly as possible to advance this critical project.

Best wishes,

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