

Vardell H Curtis,

St. George, UT.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my support for the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) and underscore the need for this water project. I serve as the Washington County Board of REALTORS Chief Executive Officer. The LPP is critical to support the growing population and businesses of our region.

Washington County is home to many beautiful and growing communities. Our county consistently outpaces the statewide average in employment growth with 1.5 percent annually over the past four years. CNN Money and Forbes magazines have ranked St. George in Washington Country among the best places to work, live and retire.

The real estate markets in Washington County are vibrant and healthy with steady growth coming from household and business formations, and inbound migration. The housing market is strong with residential dwelling sales up 10 percent in 2017 over the prior year. The median home value increased 4.3 percent to \$222,000 in 2017. Commercial real estate sales were even stronger increasing over 14 percent year-over-year (Source: Southern Utah Good News Housing Report, January 2018).

Water will remain a necessary resource for securing economic stability in the future and has the potential to affect any industry's ability to produce and employ residents. Washington County's 4,500 businesses are highly interwoven in the region and throughout the state of Utah. Any disruption in the supply chain could have economic impacts beyond that of just one industry or business. Water is a direct input into several critical industries such as agriculture, manufacturing and utilities. A threat to any of these key industries, among others, becomes a threat to the rest of the economy as the ties to other industries become weakened or even disrupted.

We all benefit from the planning done by previous generations for the water we use today; future generations depend on us to plan wisely. Most of Utah's growth is natural growth--our children and grandchildren will need water.

Our water providers have developed a comprehensive approach to supplying water for the future. It includes ongoing conservation, developing local water projects and building the LPP. I'm concerned that we can't meet our future needs with our existing water sources and system. LPP represents the best way to provide a new source of water supply for our future prosperity.

I urge the FERC to advance the LPP by completing the environmental assessment and issuing its license.

Sincerely,

Vardell H Curtis, RCE, ePro