



# STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 20, 2020

Mr. Rick Baxter  
Program Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office  
302 East Lakeview Parkway  
Provo, Utah 84606

Dear Mr. Baxter,

I am writing today to express my support for the Lake Powell Pipeline project in Southern Utah. The state of Utah has one of the fastest growing populations in the nation. Our population is projected to double by 2065 and it is critical for us to prepare for this growth. Ensuring access to a reliable water source for all Utahns is of utmost importance. Most Southern Utahns depend on a single river basin to supply water. The Lake Powell Pipeline will utilize one of the state's most reliable water sources, the Colorado River.

Southern Utah has been affected by drought for twelve years in the past two decades, the Lake Powell Pipeline will provide additional water supplies and storage to protect against future droughts. Having a reliable water source is essential for Utah's growing population and economy. Utah is fortunate to have additional Colorado River water rights that can be developed to meet our future needs. Investing in additional water development, conservation, and infrastructure strategy will aid us in meeting future demands. Environmental studies conducted for the Lake Powell Pipeline have indicated that we can mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with the project.

My administration has prioritized the efficient and sustainable use of water as a crucial part of meeting Utah's future water needs. The Utah Division of Water Resources has recently finalized regional water conservation goals, accounting for climate, elevation, the growing season, and other specific needs. I am optimistic that Utah can reach our goals for utilizing the Colorado River through responsible conservation, adequate water infrastructure and storage, and innovation.

Complete permitting for the Lake Powell Pipeline Preferred Alternative will ensure that Utah is well prepared for our future growth and water needs. Thank you for your efforts and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor