

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2020

Rick Baxter
Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office
302 East Lakeview Parkway
Provo, Utah 84606

Dear Mr. Baxter,

The Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) is a critical project for Utah. As authorized by the 1922 Interstate Compact on the Colorado River, each state has the right to develop its allocation of Colorado River water. For Utah, that time is now. The LPP Project will help Utah access this much needed allotment.

In 2006, Utah's state legislature approved 96-1 the Lake Powell Pipeline Development Act. Fourteen years later to reiterate its support, in March 2020, the legislature passed HCR 22 calling for the protection, development, and beneficial use of Utah's Colorado River Compact allocation. These pieces of legislation bookend years of development and planning. After years of analysis, we were very pleased to see the Bureau of Reclamation release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the LPP project.

The DEIS considers the alternatives for meeting the future water demands of Washington County and relieving the pressure on the Virgin River Basin. The LPP would beneficially use 6% of Utah's Colorado River annual reliable water supply, a small portion of the state's total allotment. This project is a responsible use of Utah's natural resources as Utah develops its share of Colorado River water.

It is critical that Washington County develop a reliable water supply for its residents. By 2065, the county's population is anticipated to grow by 229 percent. Washington County Water Conservancy District is deploying aggressive water conservation strategies to manage water demand now and into the future. The Virgin River basin has been identified by the Utah Division of Water Resources as limited and closed to future water development. Projected increases in water demand, even after implementing significant new water conservation, will ultimately exhaust the capacity of the county's single water supply source. The Virgin River remains subject to severe climate variability and multi-year droughts—it can't sustain Washington County's water needs alone. The LPP project will augment existing water conservation measures and Virgin River supplies with additional water development creating a flexible system that offers a more secure water future.

We support the suggested Preferred Alternative and encourage you to sign the Record of Decision. Utah is in the arid southwest and the Lake Powell Pipeline project provides a necessary water supply for southern Utah residents helping to provide a secure future for these communities.

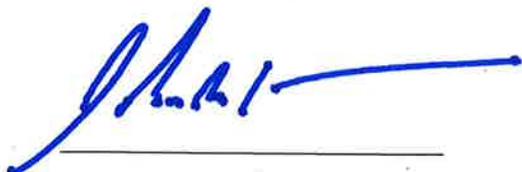
Sincerely,



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



John Curtis
Member of Congress



Mike Lee
U.S. Senator



Mitt Romney
U.S. Senator