

MAJORITY LEADER
SENATOR EVAN J. VICKERS
TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT



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UTAH STATE SENATE

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July 9, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Baxter:

As a lifelong resident of southern Utah, I know first-hand the unique needs of our area, as I grew up here, I've raised my family here, and I've built successful businesses here. I own and operate Bulloch Drug, Township Pharmacy and Richfield Community Pharmacy, as well as three other retail stores in Cedar City. I am very proud to call southern Utah my home.

I support advancing the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) project. The U.S. Census Bureau confirms that recent population growth in Utah is among the most rapid in the nation. Washington County is a powerhouse for growth, growing 30 percent during the past decade. The St. George metropolitan area is a magnet for people wanting a high quality of life and economic prosperity.

I've represented this region as a city councilman from 1987-1999, and as a member of the Senate or Utah House of Representatives since 2009. Currently I am the majority leader of the Utah State Senate. As an elected representative, I know that water development and water conservation are both absolute necessities for our continued growth. I believe the LPP is the best alternative for Washington County to supplement its water supplies. The project has the fewest environmental and water resource impacts on the area.

According to current state law, the State of Utah will fund the initial development and construction cost of the LPP and the water users will repay the state. We expect that, given Washington County's population growth, project costs will be proportionally borne more by new water users than those residing in the region today.

As a businessman and part-time legislator, we must look at the infrastructure needed to support our quality of life, health and safety, and economy for the residents in Washington County. It is our duty and responsibility to get prepared for the growth projected for our area. For these reasons, I encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to finalize its Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Powell Pipeline and issue its Record of Decision as quickly as possible.

June 6, 2020
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Sincerely,

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