

**Don Ipson, Hurricane, UT.**

**To Whom it May Concern:**

I am the owner of DATS Trucking based in Hurricane, Utah with service centers in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. Since forming the company in 1988, DATS has grown dramatically thanks to a lot of hard work, and the loyal support of hundreds of customers. In less than a decade, we have gone from a single tractor and trailer to more than 250 power units and 850 trailers. We've also grown our workforce of skilled transportation specialists to accommodate this growth.

The DATS Trucking growth story is replicated throughout this region. Washington County has averaged six percent growth annually from 1970-2015 and currently has 165,000-plus residents. All economic indicators signal strong, continued growth and the state's population projections estimate the county could triple over the next 50 years. Therefore, it's important to recognize and plan for the growth to ensure continued economic prosperity.

We must have water to support businesses and residents. The Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) is a critical water infrastructure project for southern Utah. In addition to providing water needed for our economy, the LPP will also contribute to the national priorities of infrastructure development, business growth and job creation. The LPP is anticipated to support more than 90,000 jobs and 8,000-plus Utah businesses, and generate significant tax revenues for the local, regional and state governments.

I have also represented this district as a member of the Senate or Utah House of Representatives since 2009. History has demonstrated that the State of Utah can develop large infrastructure projects economically while respecting environmental resources. The state has funded more than a thousand regional water projects—all of them have been repaid. In 2015, the legislature created a Water Infrastructure Restricted Account to assist in funding water projects that will, once fully funded, generate approximately \$40 million a year.

As a business owner, I'm concerned about the ongoing economic viability and stability of this region. Investments into our business require significant lead times and confidence in the basic public infrastructure to serve our employees and customers. The successful permitting and development of the LPP will ensure a reliable water supply. This is necessary for us to continue to invest in and grow our business.

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

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Don L. Ipson

Chairman, President & CEO

DATS Trucking Incorporated

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