

Jerry C Atkin, 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 was born and raised in Washington County and have watched this area grow over the years. I chose St. George to raise my family and to pursue a career in the airline industry. I am chairman of SkyWest, Inc., the holding company for multiple scheduled passenger airline operations and an aircraft leasing company headquartered in St. George, Utah. In 2017, the holding company had revenues of \$3.1 billion and 17,000 employees. SkyWest's airline companies provide commercial air service in cities throughout North America with over 2,700 daily flights carrying more than 53 million passengers annually.

Our company has grown along with St. George and Washington County. When founded in 1972, we had 3 aircraft and a handful of employees. I assumed the executive leadership position for SkyWest two years later at the age of 26. That same year we decided to keep our corporate headquarters in St. George, a decision that we would reaffirm several times over the next decades. Today SkyWest is recognized as one of the largest and most successful regional airlines in the world.

The history of SkyWest Airlines is emblematic of a small business growing into a large enterprise along with the successful development and growth of a vibrant region of Utah and the West. In addition to a great place to raise a family, this region has grown due to a strong business climate and its natural beauty.

With this growth has come the need to develop the region's infrastructure. A good example is the St. George Regional Airport located about 6 miles outside of the central business district of St. George. In 2011, the city opened its new regional facility to replace an outdated airport that was declared unsuitable for expansion needed for population growth. In conjunction with the opening of the new airport, SkyWest introduced the first-ever intrastate jet service to Utah with its St. George to Salt Lake City route.

As one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, the LPP is critically important to support businesses like ours and the economy. Water sustains life and jobs in Utah. We have close to 6 million visitors to our region each year, many of whom utilize our airlines to travel to the area. Water is critical for the hotels, resorts, restaurants, national parks and other businesses that support these visitors. Tourism is a multi-billion-dollar annual industry in Washington County.

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. Our community recognized and supported the need for a new regional airport. We knew it was not cost effective or efficient to update our aging airport. Similarly, we recognize 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 permit this project so construction can begin.

Sincerely,

Jerry C. Atkin
Chairman of SkyWest, Inc.
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