



Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

March 14, 2018

Gov. Gary Herbert
Utah Governor's Office
350 North State Street, Suite 200
PO Box 142220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Gov. Herbert:

UPHE Letter on Development of the Northwest Quadrant and Inland Port Authority Bill SB 234

For years so much effort has been spent by the community, clean air advocates, state and local agencies and some of our state leaders to improve air quality and attain federal standards, particularly at the Wasatch Front. We would have thought by now that further development of any area in our region, would include purposeful consideration and strategic inclusion of community, environmental and health concerns.

*Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) stands together with community representatives and we would like to see decisions made on the development of the Northwest Quadrant to incorporate the views reflected by stakeholders who worked on the Northwest Quadrant Master Plan. We would also like to see environmental and health views properly represented in any decision-making and planning body on the development of the area. **We are concerned about how SB 234 does not respect this partnership.***

The medical research is now indisputable that Wasatch Front air pollution is a serious health hazard and that there is no safe level of air pollution. Even levels far below federal standards cause strokes, heart attacks, brain disorders, premature deaths, pregnancy complications, impair fetal development and shorten life expectancies. Furthermore, communities on the west side of Salt Lake City, near the Northwest Quadrant, already bear a disproportionate amount of this public health burden. New diesel emissions, from additional truck and train traffic, and more congested freeways, is exactly the kind of development that will further degrade our air quality and exacerbate the public health consequences.

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Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Utahns want clean air, clean energy, a clean future and a livable climate. Current plans for Salt Lake City to become an "inland port" would steer the economy of the state and the city in the opposite direction. We are concerned that the special interests behind creating and operating a port authority would shut out citizen input, defy public opinion and create a shortcut to increasing coal, oil and gas extraction and transportation.

Future economic growth of the Salt Lake Valley can head in one of two directions: clean, high tech, or old school, dirty industry. We can pursue an "inland Silicon Valley" future or a Pittsburgh of the 1940s future. We are concerned that in multiple ways, tying Salt Lake City's economic future to a significant increase in heavy industry will cause further degradation of our environment and air quality, and undermine long-term climate considerations for Utah, the West and the country.

The objective of making our capital city an "inland port" is being inappropriately rushed without pausing to reflect on all the consequences. We urge you to consider the consequences of SB 234. There is nothing wrong with economic development, if it is done with community and environmental health as a foundation for decision-making.

Respectfully yours,

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