



# Fruit Heights City

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To: Congressional Record/Interested Parties

From: Darren Frandsen, City Manager

Date: February 5, 2026

Subject: H.R. 5478 Fruit Heights Land Conveyance Act of 2025

Chairman Tiffany, Ranking Member Neguse, and Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, thank you for inviting me to testify on the Fruit Heights Land Conveyances Act.

I appreciate Congressman Blake Moore and his office for their continued work and support on this legislation.

My name is Darren Frandsen. I have worked for Fruit Heights City since 1993, beginning in the Parks Department, later serving as Public Works Director, and for the past two years as City Manager.

Fruit Heights is a small bedroom community of approximately 6,000 residents and is nearly 97% built out. The city is located in Davis County, Utah, approximately twenty minutes north of Salt Lake City. It is situated along the east bench of the Wasatch Mountains—commonly referred to as the Wasatch Front—and is directly adjacent to a critical yet partially unconstructed gap in the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST).

In 2023, Fruit Heights began to explore opportunities to add additional recreational trails to those that have already been built. One of these is known as the Fruit Loops Mountain Bike Trails. The Fruit Loops are used by local high school mountain bike teams for training and competitions, families, recreational biking groups, and riders of all ages and skill levels. The Fruit Loops have become a popular destination, not only in the surrounding communities but all of Davis County. I personally have talked to families that had heard about Fruit Loops and came to see and ride Fruit Loops from Idaho. With very limited open space remaining within city boundaries, former Mayor John Pohlman, in early 2024 began working with the U.S. Forest Service to explore opportunities to add additional trails on Forest Service property. Fruit Heights submitted a formal Needs Request to the Salt Lake Forest Service Office. Mayor Pohlman and

city staff met on site with Forest Service representatives to discuss potential trail locations on Forest Service property and the city's long-term vision for recreation and connectivity. While the Forest Service did not object to the proposed trail system, they identified several requirements that would need to be addressed, including issues related to the BST.

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail is a popular, scenic, multi-use trail system designed to follow the ancient shoreline of prehistoric Lake Bonneville along the foothills of the Wasatch Front. Davis County, along with other counties and municipalities, has worked with the Forest Service for many years to construct and connect this regional trail system. Challenges associated with the segment above Fruit Heights have slowed progress in this area, resulting in the city missing a grant opportunity for which it otherwise qualified. In response, Mayor Pohlman discussed potential ways to streamline and accelerate the process, which led to discussions with Congressman Moore regarding the possibility of conveying the land to Fruit Heights City and the City of Farmington. The BST alignment has been determined, and the portion above Fruit Heights is scheduled to start summer 2026. Fruit Heights supports the building of the BST and appreciates all the work Davis County and the Forest Service have done.

The goal of this land conveyance is to preserve undeveloped open space that will remain protected from development, provide recreational opportunities for Fruit Heights residents and surrounding communities by building additional trails, connect the cities of Farmington, Fruit Heights, and Kaysville to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, support local schools through accessible trail systems, and encourage residents to engage in outdoor activity.

Fruit Heights is committed to expanding recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Communities that promote outdoor activity and access to recreation can experience improved public health outcomes and reduced long-term healthcare costs. By preserving open space and developing accessible trail systems, Fruit Heights seeks to create lasting benefits for its residents and for the Wasatch Front as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available for any questions you may have for me.

*Darren Frandsen*

City Manager

Fruit Heights City

