



Jordan Nielson

Utah Water and Habitat Program Director

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Mike Lee
U.S. Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitt Romney
U.S. Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Curtis
U.S. House of Representatives
2323 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Stewart
U.S. House of Representatives
166 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Burgess Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Blake Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act (H.R. 4094/S. 1955)

Dear Utah Congressional Delegation,

Trout Unlimited is writing to express support for the *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act*. As one of the preeminent conservation organizations working on rivers in the US, we are interested in the conservation and preservation of our coldwater streams. This includes work to conserve both flow and habitat dependent on riparian and mesic systems. This legislation provides access to additional funding resources needed to increase water conservation efforts and augment water flows into the Great Salt Lake basin. Sustained drought has caused the lake levels to decline to a concerning degree. Water conservation is a top priority, and this bill recognizes the importance of advancing projects that will help to replenish the Great Salt Lake.

The *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* will enhance access to federal funding for water conservation projects by adding a new provision to the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA - Public Law 102-575). This change gives the Secretary of Interior the flexibility to reallocate unspent budget authorities within Title II of CUPCA and to put funds towards water conservation activities. Also, the bill expands the scope of the CUPCA water conservation program to now include the Great Salt Lake basin, which will greatly benefit the lake. Additionally, we would like to see the scope of the bill expand to the Uinta Basin where two to three hundred-thousand-acre feet are extracted to support the water use of the Wasatch Front. The two systems are linked by natural water cycles as well as transbasin diversions and water conservation measures should be taken in both to promote healthy waterways and communities throughout Utah. Finally, the CUPCA program enjoys annual funding support from Congress providing a stable source of future funding for water conservation initiatives.

Healthy streams and habitats are inextricably linked to healthy communities with a high quality of life. Conservation measures big and small should be prioritized to promote the health and safety of our Utah population, the long term and continued

health of our agriculture, municipal, and industrial water systems, and a healthy ecosystem, all of which drive a healthy Utah economy.

Thank you introducing *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* and for your work in advancing it through the legislative process.

Warm regard,



Jordan Nielson
Utah Water and Habitat Program Director
Trout Unlimited

