



The Nature Conservancy in Utah
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July 17, 2023

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

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,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Utah, I would like to express our support for the *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act*. The Conservancy has prioritized working on the Great Salt Lake for more than three decades and has led and joined water projects throughout the state to develop creative solutions to provide water to people and nature.

We know the enormous toll caused by the loss or drying of terminal lakes around the world and the costs to human health, the environment, and economies, as well as the costs of mitigation. 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. Finally, the CUPCA program enjoys annual funding support from Congress providing a stable source of future funding for water conservation initiatives.

We appreciate the full Utah delegation joining together on this critical issue to introduce the *Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act* and for your efforts move towards passage. Working together we can avoid the potential for economic, public health, and ecological harm experienced by other communities faced with drying lakes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Livermore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Livermore
State Director
The Nature Conservancy in Utah