



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
*Governor*

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY  
*Executive Director*

July 20, 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:

The Utah Department of Natural Resources is writing to express full support for the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act. This legislation enhances access to federal funding for water conservation projects by expanding the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA – Public Law 102-575). This bill allows water conservation projects in the Great Salt Lake basin to be included in the CUPCA water conservation program. Expanding the scope will bring greater participation from cities, irrigation districts, and more. It will also provide a stable funding source for future water conservation initiatives.

The Great Salt Lake is vital to the environment, ecology and economy, not just in Utah but also the western United States. For the second year in a row, Utah's legislative session concluded with significant investment and a long list of bills targeting water conservation, efficiency and infrastructure. This investment over the past two years totals about \$1 billion. It's a great start, but we must do more to preserve and protect the lake.



Record-low levels have prompted unprecedented interest in the lake by media around the globe, policymakers, Utahns across all sectors and more. We appreciate this interest and are taking action to protect the lake and its unique ecosystem. Unfortunately, it often takes a crisis to elevate an issue of this magnitude into the public eye.

Increasing water flows to the lake is a top and immediate priority. This can be accomplished through aggressive and strategic water conservation. In the past, Congress has invested federal funding in water bodies of national importance, like the Great Salt Lake. The Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act is an important piece of legislation that will help protect this unique resource.

Thank you for your help and support as you guide the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Ferry".

Joel Ferry  
Executive Director