



March 9th, 2018

The Office of Governor Gary R. Herbert
350 North State Street, Suite 200
PO Box 142220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert,

The Salt Lake Community Network membership is comprised of all 27 of Salt Lake City's recognized Community Organizations, including every community council in the city. As a group, we are very concerned about the passing of the bill creating the Utah Inland Port Authority to oversee development in Salt Lake City's Northwest Quadrant and parts of West Valley City and Magna.

Salt Lake City has been particularly diligent and thorough in developing plans for the area over the past two years. Between the City Council, the Mayor's office, and the Redevelopment Agency, our community councils have been kept apprised of every development aspect as the project has evolved. It is unprecedented for the state to take over a city operation when there has been no negligence on the city's part.

Several issues stand out to us with the sudden arrival of state control:

1. The board will not be at all accountable to citizens as all members are appointed rather than elected. The board has taxing authority, yet no voter accountability. We believe this is in violation of a fundamental principle of our country; no taxation without representation.
2. Ultimate zoning control rests with the new board. If the board doesn't like the zoning the city creates, which is legally a city's right to manage, the board can change it.
3. The vast majority of the 11 member board come from state or county entities. SB234 only gives Salt Lake City two seats at the table.
4. The manner in which this legislation was passed is concerning. While legislators, the City Council, and the Mayor's office have been in negotiations over this issue for some time, the first draft language of the bill wasn't released until February 27th, with the first and only public hearing held on March 1st. Subsequently, four substitute bills drastically changed the language. The version voted on and passed on March 7th is a replacement bill that city stakeholders, and the public, did not see prior to its passage.

As members of the community, we can see and understand the benefits to developing the property in the Northwest Quadrant. We can also see the economic benefits to an inland port. However, we cannot support the current bill and urge Governor Gary Herbert to veto this bill to provide more time for the issues to be resolved between stakeholders and the people who have to live with the decisions.

Respectfully,

Dennis Faris
Chair
Salt Lake Community Network