

May 31, 2018

The Hon. Gary Herbert
Governor of Utah

by fax (801) 538-1547

Dear Gov. Herbert,

I am writing to you on behalf of our group of 40 or so concerned neighbors in Salt Lake City. We urge you to convene a special session of the legislature to consider amendments to SB 234 before taking any steps to implement it.

As you, House Speaker Hughes and Senate President Neiderhauser have acknowledged, SB 234 is a flawed bill. The logical course then is to give the bill further consideration before implementing it, rather than rushing forward to seat the Board as you seem to be doing.

We are not opposed to the idea of an inland port as such, but we believe that this project, that will impact Utahns for decades to come, deserves thorough consideration and input from all affected constituencies. We see no reason to hurry the implementation of SB 234 and many reasons to take the time to get it right. Among these:

- The manner in which the final bill was drafted and adopted has created great mistrust between the state and local communities. This makes organized opposition and perhaps legal action inevitable unless all stakeholders are brought to the table to work out an agreement. Adam Wasserman of GLD Assoc. stated that a divided community could greatly reduce the market for the port.
- The environmental impacts of the port have been given no consideration in the current bill. Hoping that technology will somehow save us is not a sound strategy. As you well know, the EPA is poised to impose strict emission standards as a result of our non-attainment of air quality standards. The port will make a bad situation worse if not properly implemented.
- The port's water sources and usage have also not been considered. Derek Miller has stated that water is the most crucial element that could prevent the port's development.

To address the last two points, we strongly urge that an environmental impact statement be prepared by an experienced national consultant to guide the port's development. A special committee, including representatives of all constituencies, should be established to work with this consultant.

As the chief executive of the state, you have the authority to determine how laws passed by the legislature are implemented. The constitution gives you this authority to create checks and balances among the branches of government. This is a case where the legislature has acted hastily and unwisely. Your intervention is needed. We urge you to delay the implementation of SB 234 until a special session of the legislature can be convened to address the acknowledged flaws in the bill.

Respectfully,



David Scheer
Board Chair, the Capitol Hill Action Group

Executive Committee

David Scheer	<i>Board Chair</i>
Bonnie Weiss	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Jan Brock	<i>Treasurer</i>
Becky Horn	<i>Secretary</i>