

P-12966-004

# United States Congress

March 23, 2017

OFFICE OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2017 JUN 12 P 3 48

FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to respectfully support the request submitted to you on February 22, 2017 by Governor Gary Herbert (enclosed), which asks that the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP) be determined a "high priority" infrastructure project, with expedited environmental reviews and approvals, under Executive Order 13766 (E.O. 13766, 82 Fed Register 8,657 (January 30, 2017)).

The LPP project meets the criteria outlined under E.O. 13766. As background, the LPP project is currently under environmental review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). To date, the environmental review process has taken 10 years and cost \$32 million. It is imperative that the review process be completed by 2018, which will require permitting and completed environmental review from FERC, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The LPP project aligns well with the Trump Administration's emphasis on infrastructure and job-creation. As one of the largest water infrastructure projects in Utah, the LPP will provide much-needed jobs and business opportunities for Utah companies, while contributing millions of dollars to the local economy. The project will provide critical water infrastructure to one of the fastest growing regions in Utah, expected to grow 252% by 2060, which remains in a severe drought. Specifically, the LPP will help provide water certainty to a region where water demand—without the LPP—will exceed supply by 2030 for ~250,000 current and future residents. The project would also benefit the millions of visitors from around Utah and around the country who visit the region each year. The legislation authorizing the project stipulates that LPP will be funded by the State of Utah and subsequently repaid by the districts through water sales.

What is more, the completion of the LPP project will allow the State of Utah to use its legally-allocated portion of the Colorado River to improve water management and supply for multiple counties throughout Utah. While the preliminary construction cost of the LPP is estimated to be \$1.4 billion, it will create ~90,000 jobs (8,000 of which will be direct, construction-related jobs) and have an estimated economic value return of \$1.5 billion, including projected generation of more than \$19 billion in increased sales tax. As well, it is expected that the pipe and other materials for the project will be manufactured in the United States. Therefore, it is critical that the environmental review and approvals be completed in a timely manner.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Orrin G. Hatch  
U.S. Senator



Mike Lee  
U.S. Senator



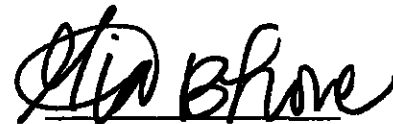
**Chris Stewart**  
Member of Congress



**Rob Bishop**  
Member of Congress



**Jason Chaffetz**  
Member of Congress



**Mia Love**  
Member of Congress

**Enclosure**



## STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 22, 2017

Chairman  
White House Council on Environmental Quality  
1776 I St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Chairman,

Pursuant to Executive Order 13766 of January 24, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 8,657 (Jan 30, 2017)), I request that the Lake Powell Pipeline project (LPP) be determined a "high priority" infrastructure project, with environmental reviews and approvals expedited. Expedited reviews will provide greater understanding of project costs and impacts as well as potential benefits to residents.

Upon funding and completion, this project would augment the water supply for an estimated 250,000 current and future residents and millions of visitors to the region each year. The preliminary construction cost for the project is estimated between at least \$1.1 and \$1.8 billion.

This pipeline is at 30 percent design and engineering and can be accelerated with expedited environmental reviews and approvals. The agencies that will require permits, and thus environmental review, are the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Parks Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is currently under environmental review by FERC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor