

UTAH STATE SENATE

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SENATOR
HOWARD A. STEPHENSON

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APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Public Education, Co-Chair
STANDING COMMITTEES
Administrative Rules Review, Co-Chair
Education
Revenue & Taxation

June 20, 2007

Mr. Michael R. Styler, Executive Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 5610
P.O. Box 145610
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mike,

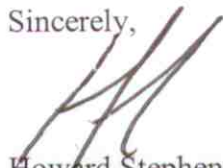
1-Undue friction in Utah's water commerce impacts Utahns and builders ability to obtain and maintain water inventories required by cities for development. Undue influences in Utah's water industry have degraded water rights which dramatically increase risks and costs for Utah builders and families. We would like to see a restoration of the 90 year old irrigation rights. All water users including irrigation shareholders need the right to directly file applications for non-use, temporary, and permanent change applications without the current water politics of boards and board members who are city employees.

2-Where the Board of Water Resources grants and loans public tax payer dollars, good water citizenship by applicants should be a policy and condition for quality for public funds. The state through its various water related entities should discourage water hoarding, water monopoly, water wasting, and the water politics which is a cost driver on Utah's home builders and families.

3-Compliance with Court Orders to Adjudicate Salt Lake Area 57 would moderate the current water monopoly to accommodate water and reduce friction in Utah's water commerce which increases home building and maintenance costs. The unequal treatment of cities further erodes the public's trust in state government. A city which hoards privileged, given grants and subsidized state loans by-passes the same court order used to firmly adjudicate a city which providently manages its water resource. Non-compliance of Court Orders by State Officials erodes the public's trust in the justice system. A free water market is essential to a healthy Utah economy.

4. Pre-adjudication actions to moderate monopoly that could be effect immediately are the prompt rejection pending 184,000 acre-feet of applications to appropriate more water in Area 57, reject applications for extensions by those excessive amounts of water than they need at build out, and condition Board of Water Resource grants and loans upon good water citizenship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Stephenson', written over a horizontal line.

Howard Stephenson
State Senator