



House of Representatives *State of Utah*

UTAH STATE CAPITOL • PO BOX 145030
350 N STATE STREET, SUITE 350
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-5030 • (801) 538-1029

Constituent Services
Office of the Governor
Date
SEP 28 2009

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Governor of the State of Utah
350 North State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert:

We would like to share with you our concerns regarding the Snake Valley Agreement, an agreement that will have a vast and far-reaching impact.

We feel that more time is needed to research and understand the effect that this decision will have on the land and for those who live on and work the land. We agree with the Natural Resources Interim Committee that a more deliberative process would be beneficial. We are pleased to hear that you will be consulting with the advisory committee. This will allow information-gathering from all sides of the issue, including the critically needed scientific research and data.

Issues that concern us are:

- The impact of lowered water table to Utah farmers and ranchers. This could create a flow of water from the Great Salt Lake into the aquifer, causing contamination of the groundwater.
- The majority of the groundwater is in Utah, while the source is primarily in Nevada. Nevada believes that they should have greater access, because the water comes from their mountains. Water law supports the rights of the state where the water is held. With Nevada's suggestion, other waterways and their water users could be impacted, such as the Colorado River.
- The piping of water from Spring Valley already has a depleting effect on Snake Valley.
- The loss of groundwater could create loss of vegetation, thus allowing the contaminated soil to be blown eastward.
- We are concerned about the potential negative impact on our air quality and possible resulting litigation because of it.
- The scientific research is critical for sound decision-making. Time is needed to complete this important component.

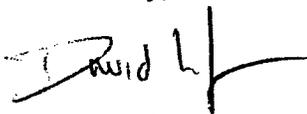
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- The Nevada Engineer has set their state's evidence submission deadline for Spring 2011, thus, allowing time for Utah to research and gather more information on the effects of this agreement. Utah should take advantage of this opportunity to fully research the implications of this decision.

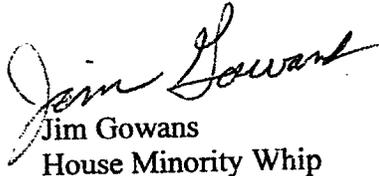
We ask for your consideration in creating a climate of careful and thoughtful deliberation by delaying the signing of the agreement to allow for this to occur.

We would be happy to talk with you further about our concerns.

Sincerely,



David Litvack
House Minority Leader



Jim Gowans
House Minority Whip



Carol Spackman Moss
House Assistant Minority Whip



Jennifer Seelig
House Minority Caucus Manager