

2-1-21

**House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee**

**Bill: HB 65, Wildland Fire Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Snider

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill: addresses state management of wildland fires.

Discussion: A 1<sup>st</sup> substitute was adopted by the Committee. Rep. Snider said this bill identifies funds within our sovereign land account and increases base rates for the fire wardens. The bill also helps create a mapping tool to identify risk assessments and identify cost recovery points for after a fire. The mapping tool helps fire departments have a data set on a more refined scale. The expenditures mostly come from the sovereign land fund and the increase in fire warden salary. The sponsor said it will also cost a county between \$1,000 and \$4,000 for the increase in the sovereign land account. The Draper City Fire Chief, the Unified Fire Authority, and the Utah Division of Forestry and State Lands support this bill. The money from the sovereign land account comes from the industries on the Great Salt Lake and the resources they use there. The Utah Conservation Districts support this bill. Rep. Hawkes voiced his support for this bill.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

**Outcome: Passed out of committee, with substitution, a favorable recommendation.**