

2-4-21

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

**Bill: HB 297, Colorado River Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Wilson

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Adams

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill: addresses Utah's management of Utah's Colorado River system interests.

Discussion: An amendment one added to the bill. The sponsor said in Utah approximately 60% of the population rely on the Colorado River for drinking water. This bill creates the Colorado River Authority. The sponsor said we are behind the times compared to our bordering states. The sponsor said the other states have significant resources and staff for the management of their portion of the Colorado River Compact. Utah's River Commissioner said this bill significantly adds to the state's opportunity to use its allocation of Colorado River water. Growth and drought are the biggest factors for the allocation of Colorado River water. This bill allows resources to be put to the best use possible. Rep. Lyman voiced concern about the make-up of the board because some counties may not be represented. The River Commissioner said those not specified in the bill will be represented by other individuals on the board. The majority of those represented on the board use the majority of the Colorado River water. Rep. Chew voiced his support for this bill. Rep. Chew asked about what the duties of the Colorado River Commissioner are. The Utah River Commissioner said in the bill it specifically gives authority to the Colorado River Commissioner and not the other river commissioners. Rep. Chew voiced concern about line 1407 in which the river commissioner will serve without compensation. The sponsor said the thinking behind that is they have other responsibilities that provide them compensation. The River Commissioner said there will be in kind contribution from the technical people. Rep. Briscoe asked about line 1330 and what the intentions are for water planning in the rest of the state. The River Commissioner said it will add to all the great work that is currently performed, how much we use it, how much we can depend on it, etc. The meetings not be public to avoid other states, that have allocations from the Colorado River, having access to sensitive information that could impact negotiations. Members of the public voiced their opposition to this bill. A County Commissioner voiced his support for this bill. The Center for Biological Diversity voiced its opposition for this bill. The State Department of Natural Resources voiced support for this bill. The Bear River Canal company voiced concern for this bill.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 2

N/V: 1

**Outcome: Passed out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

**Bill: HB107, Subdivision Plat Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Ferry

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Owens

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill: amends provisions applicable to the recording of a subdivision plat.

Discussion: The Sponsor said this bill addresses our water conveyance systems. This bill spells out some requirements for when a surveyor is preparing a subdivision plat. Before a county takes action on approving a plat, a county will be required to send notice to water conveyance companies. The water conveyance company will have twenty days to respond before the county may take action on the plat approval. The sponsor said this bill will reduce conflict. The Bear River Canal company said this bill is to make clarifications to the Code, not to change the balance of power. Rep. Albrecht voiced support for this bill. 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 107 was adopted by the Committee.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 107 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation**

**Bill: HB 236, Waste Tire Recycling Amendments**

**UASD Position: Support**

Not heard in committee today

**Bill: SJR7, Joint Resolution Approving Energy Solutions Constructing and Operating a Landfill for Nonhazardous Solid Waste**

**UASD Position: Tracking**

Not heard in committee today