

Bill: HB 296 – Water Commitment Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Nguyen

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Support

This Bill addresses commitments of water by water providers.

Discussion: Representative Nguyen explained that the Bill would allow water suppliers to formally commit water to the Great Salt Lake as part of their water conservation plan. She stated that the intent of the Bill is to support long-term water conservation efforts and provide greater flexibility for suppliers to allocate water resources toward restoring Lake levels.

The Director of the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities testified in support, noting that more water is currently being diverted away from the Great Salt Lake than is being replenished. She explained that under Utah Code Section 73-1-32, water suppliers are required to maintain conservation plans, and that the Bill would improve both short-term and long-term planning by allowing suppliers to pledge additional water to the Lake. Representative Kohler asked how the city's reserve water supply would be affected by the Bill. The Director responded that water reserves are already limited and that the Bill would not significantly change current reserve levels. Representative Albrecht asked whether the city has excess water available to support future growth. The Director stated that the city operates under a 40-year water plan and has already reached its projected capacity for that timeframe.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: HB 296 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
