

SUPPORT HB 321

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO PROVIDE SEWER SERVICES

Representative Logan Wilde

HB 321 allows for the formation of non-voluntary Sewer Assessment Areas ONLY when needed to protect public health and water quality, as multiple septic systems FAIL in neighborhoods.

Economic Development

Water is a major economic development resource. Utah needs plentiful safe, clean water available to supply a growing population and job creation.

Beyond the health concerns, headlines of contaminated water can be detrimental to real estate values and desirability for business site location decisions.

SUPPORTING ORGANAZATIONS

Utah Association of Counties

Utah Association of Local Health Departments

Utah Association of Local Boards of Health

Weber Basin Water Conservancy

PROBLEM AND NEED

Many Utah neighborhoods were historically developed using on-site septic systems as a means of addressing human waste, rather than connecting to sewer systems. Septic systems have a limited life (20 to 25 years). When they age and fail, ground and surface water may be contaminated. Public health and safety are jeopardized. Tenant eviction and/or property condemnation are very real consequences. Unfortunately, many older Utah neighborhoods with septic systems are now failing.

In these neighborhoods, the systems often fail at a rate of 10% per year. For example, a neighborhood with 200 septic systems may have 20+ failures in a given year. While there is great incentive for the owners of these 20 systems to voluntarily join an assessment area to extend sewer to the neighborhood and solve the problem, there is less interest for those homeowners whose systems have not failed yet. Connecting these neighborhoods to a join together to make it affordable for individual property