



UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

COMMISSION FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS

Utah State Senate
Utah House of Representatives

January 24, 2019

Speaker Brad R. Wilson, Chair
President J. Stuart Adams, Chair
Legislative Management Committee
State Capital Complex
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Re: Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands

Dear Speaker Wilson and President Adams:

During the 2017 General Session, the Legislature passed H.C.R. 1, recognizing the state's commitment to remaining a public lands state and encouraging the pursuit of action supporting the retention and optimal management of public lands within the state. H.C.R. 1 also recognized the failure of the federal government to obtain meaningful state and local input into the management of federally-managed public lands within the state. The resulting mismanagement of Utah's federally-managed public lands has jeopardized Utah's communities, forests, wildlife, economies, recreational opportunities, and air quality.

The Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands ("Commission") is working to address the concerns expressed in H.C.R. 1. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop land use plans for federally-controlled public lands. The Secretary's land use plans must be "consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent [the Secretary] finds consistent with Federal Law and the purposes of [FLMPA]." However, the state of Utah has not developed legislatively approved land use plans for the state's federally-controlled public lands. Doing so would give the state greater and more appropriate control over the land use plans used to manage federally-controlled public land in the state.

The Commission proposes issuing a request for proposals ("RFP") to hire a consultant to develop land use plans for federally-controlled public lands in that state that are of heightened concern and submitting the plans to the Legislature for approval. The Commission has identified four areas of heightened concern in the state: Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, public lands in Emery County, and certain public lands in the Central Wasatch Range.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval from the Legislative Management Committee for the Commission, in accordance with the Utah Procurement Code, to:

- issue an RFP for a consultant;
- receive evaluation information on proposals submitted in response to the RFP;

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- determine a contract award to a consultant pursuant to the RFP;
- allow a vendor to correct any immaterial error in a proposal and to request a vendor to clarify information contained in the proposal, if a clarification becomes necessary;
- authorize the Commission's evaluation committee to conduct interviews with or attend presentations by those who have submitted proposals for the consultant contract; and
- assign the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to finalize an RFP and to direct the Commission or its chairs to give final approval of the RFP and to make final decisions regarding the awarding of a contract.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact either of us.

Sincerely,



David P. Hinkins, Senate Co-Chair
Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands



Keven J. Stratton, House Co-Chair
Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands

