

2020 Interim Study Items

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee

COVID-19 Related Items

- Agricultural issues: study the impact of the coronavirus pandemic upon the food supply chain and access to markets.
- Loans for agriculture: study access to loans for the agricultural community.
- Reduce regulations on Oil, Gas, and Mining.
- Request federal PILT funds as stimulus money.

Non COVID-19 Related Items

Air Quality Issues

- Further study of the publication "Utah Roadmap: Positive Solutions on Climate and Air Quality".
- Study the use of and access to Tier III fuels and its impact on air quality.
- Review the anticipated impact and scope of HB 396 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Amendments, 2020 General Session.
- Receive and consider any recommendations from the Clean Air Caucus.

Water Issues

- Aquatic Invasive Species: review the existing programs and study the next steps to address aquatic invasive species in Utah. The committee would also study creating a statewide emergency plan to address the spread of aquatic invasive species if other bodies of water are invaded.
- Water Testing: currently, testing the purity and quality of water in streams and lakes is routed through the DEQ through the state lab at the Department of Health. The committee would evaluate whether DEQ should be allowed to order the testing through other labs.
- Water Supply: study and review the existing and projected water supply in the state.
- Release of Water from Flaming Gorge: continue to study 2020 H.C.R. 23, "Encouraging a Balanced Approach to the Release of Water from Flaming Gorge."
- Water Quality in Utah Lake and other bodies of water: study the current treatment and revitalization efforts.
- Water Task Force Recommendations: receive and consider recommendations from the Utah Water Task Force.
- Public Entity Water Users: study the use and development of water by public entities (S.B. 84, 2020 General Session).
- Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of Municipalities in Watersheds: study municipalities' extraterritorial jurisdiction related to water sheds and water works. The 2019 Interim committee studied this issue and agreed that it warranted further discussion and study.
- Lake Powell Pipeline Project: The 2019 Interim committee discussed a legislative audit regarding the repayment feasibility of the Lake Powell Pipeline. The committee passed motions to recommend that legislation be drafted to clarify the terms for repayment including state bond interest costs for the Lake Powell Pipeline, how repayment costs can be divided among and within repayment contracts, final repayment time frames for outstanding pipeline reimbursable costs, and whether multiple sources of funding for the Lake Powell Pipeline would be in the best interests of the state. Additionally, the committee would study the impact of Kane County's decision to remove its support for the project.

Agricultural Issues

- Agricultural Nuisance Act Revisions: continue to study issues addressed in 2020 S.B. 106, “Agricultural Amendments,” including the Agricultural Nuisance Act and applicability to local ordinances.
- Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Program: follow up study on the medical cannabis and industrialized hemp programs in Utah.

Other Issues:

- Public Lands: Study recreational opportunities/state parks and monuments, wildfire and care of public lands, and PILT payments and tax equivalency.
- Satellite Inland Ports for Rural Areas: Study the potential use of satellite inland ports for rural products and economies.
- Radon Gas: Study the education of radon gas and the impacts of radon gas on the citizens of Utah. Are the state’s efforts enough?