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†Member of Executive Committee

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February 12, 2010

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that the members of the **UTC have taken a position to oppose H.B. 104 - Unlawful Provision of Identifiable Prescription Information (Rep. Biskupski, J.)**.

Utah's life sciences companies work on breakthrough therapies for many unmet medical needs and rely on prescriber-prescription data to help guide drug development.

UTC opposes HB 104 for the following reasons:

- Access to health information, including prescriber-identified data, facilitates high quality research on appropriate treatments using biotechnology therapies.
- For small biotech companies, access to this information enhances efforts to research and develop new drugs and biologicals.
- Although this legislation is aimed at consumer protection and provider privacy interests, **enactment of this law will have the unintended consequences of negatively impacting patient safety, access to new innovative therapies, and efforts to research and develop biologic medicines.**
- Patient privacy rights are not at issue in this debate. The confidentiality of patient-identifiable prescription data is protected under federal law pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

UTC represents the over 5,000 high-tech, life science, and clean-tech companies in Utah that are increasingly at the center of global health efforts. Our outstanding research institutions and companies are working everyday to provide better health to Utah's citizens and to people everywhere. HB 104 will impede the state's efforts to grow and retain its life sciences sector and could significantly undermine the state's leadership position in the life sciences. **We respectfully request you oppose HB 104 this legislative session.**

Thank you for considering our concerns. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Michael Feldman, our Life Science Executive-in-Residence or me at (801) 568-3500.

I value working with you and thank you for your excellent public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard R. Nelson  
President & CEO  
Utah Technology Council

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\*Non-Trustee



March 1, 2010

Dear Members of the Utah Legislature:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that the **UTC has taken a position to support HB 145 2nd Substitute – Renewable Energy Financing Provisions (Rep. Last, B; Sen. Urquhart, S.)**.

HB 145 would enable innovative third-party financing arrangements for renewable energy to government entities, schools and churches.

UTC supports HB 145 for the following reasons:

- This bill is a no-cost way for Utah to drive economic development, increase private sector investments in renewable energy, and facilitate the free flow of capital in the clean tech sector.
- This bill will help grow Utah's clean tech and renewable energy markets, which will create new jobs and new opportunities for Utah.
- This enabling legislation will help remove barriers to renewable energy, such as higher up-front costs, and will help Utah access lower-cost renewable energy systems available through third-party financing arrangements.
- This bill enables a financing model that is utilized in an estimated 90% of the U.S. non-residential solar market, as of 2008. It is imperative that Utah enable this financing mechanism if we are to stay competitive with surrounding states that are already actively attracting private investment and capital in the clean tech markets.

Representing over 5,000 high-tech, life science, and clean-tech companies in Utah, UTC supports legislation that creates a positive business climate for highly-innovative, high-growth companies to thrive. UTC feels that HB 145 will help this priority and respectfully asks that you vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO

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\*Non-Trustee



March 9, 2010

Dear Utah Senators:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that **UTC has taken a position to oppose H.B. 153 - Second Substitute Recycling of Electronic Items (Edwards, R.)**.

HB 153 would create a new "Consumer Electronic Recycling Program" and require manufacturers of covered goods to register with the state and pay a fee.

UTC opposes HB 153 for the following reasons:

- It creates a new government bureaucracy and regulatory environment when the economy can least afford it. Consumers already have options to recycle their computers in an easy and responsible way without a new government bureaucracy and the associated fees.
- HB 153 will force manufacturers to pay additional costs for services they already provide. This constitutes a new tax on manufacturers. When the costs associated with manufacturing and selling products increase unnecessarily, consumers ultimately lose.

UTC represents over 5,000 technology companies in Utah that are at the center of innovation and growth. Our outstanding companies provide high-paying jobs and incredible tax revenue for the health of Utah's economy.

HB 153 is contrary to the state's efforts to create a positive business climate and could impede innovation in Utah's technology companies. **We respectfully request you oppose HB 153 this legislative session.**

I value working with you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard R. Nelson  
President & CEO  
Utah Technology Council

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February 8, 2010

Dear Members of the House Education Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that the **members of UTC have taken a position to support SB 55 - Authorization of Charter Schools by Higher Education Institutions (Sen. Adams, J. S.)**.

SB 55 would allow higher education institutions to authorize the establishment and operation of a charter school (no fiscal note).

UTC supports SB 55 for the following reasons:

- **Education Quality = Quality Workforce:** Creating and maintaining a Quality Workforce is the technology industry's #1 issue. Technology companies understand the importance of rigor and relevance and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in both public and higher education. We expect that the Higher Educational institutions will set high student achievement standards in schools that they administer and many will focus on STEM curriculum, helping to produce a quality workforce to fuel Utah's innovative companies.
- **Accountability:** We expect that the Higher Educational Institutions will be good stewards of these schools and students. They will also be able to leverage existing brick and mortar and personnel.
- **Innovation:** We expect Higher Educational Institutions to utilize technology and innovation to raise the bar for all of Utah's Public Schools.

Representing over 5,000 high-tech, life science, and clean-tech companies in Utah, UTC supports legislation that create a quality workforce for these highly-innovative, high-growth companies. UTC feels that SB 55 will help to that end and respectfully asks that you vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO

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\*Non-Trustee



March 9, 2010

Dear Members of the Utah House of Representatives:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that the **UTC has taken a "High Priority" position to support SB 61 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption for a Web Search Portal (Stephenson, H / Dougall, J.)**

SB 61 gives a sales and use tax exemption to businesses for any purchase of server and other web search portal hardware.

UTC supports SB 61 for the following reasons:

- Utah has become a more business-friendly state by beginning to exempt business inputs in various industries from sales tax.
- So far, manufacturing, mining and medical device manufacturers have this exemption from sales tax on purchases for their business inputs.
- SB 61 begins to extend these basic principles of tax policy to the 21st century economy, by exempting sales tax of business inputs purchases by web search portal companies.
- SB 61's sales tax exemption extends not just to purchases by new or expanding companies, but for replacement parts as well. That means web search portal companies already in Utah are eligible under SB 61 for this sales tax exemption.

Representing over 5,000 high-tech, life science, and clean-tech companies in Utah, UTC supports legislation that creates a positive business climate for highly-innovative, high-growth companies to thrive. UTC feels that SB 61 will help this priority and respectfully asks that you vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson".

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO

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March 2, 2010

Dear Members of the Utah Legislature:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that the **members of UTC have taken a position to support SB 194 - Assessment Area Act Amendments (W. Niederhauser).**

SB 194 would enable local entities in Utah (such as counties, cities, towns, local districts or special service districts) to voluntarily issue bonds for the purpose of financing property assessed loans to interested residents and businesses to make voluntary energy improvements to their property, such as efficient windows, insulation, efficient HVAC systems, and/or renewable energy systems.

This bill expands the opportunities within the existing authority of local entities to issue bonds for the purpose of public improvement projects.

UTC supports SB 194 for the following reasons:

- Increasing the energy efficiency and renewable energy markets in Utah will help expand Utah's clean tech sector creating new jobs and opportunities for economic development.
- This enabling legislation will help remove significant barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy, including higher up-front costs and longer payback for certain measures.
- This legislation will empower interested municipal governments to help their citizens and businesses finance energy efficiency and renewable energy through property assessments. This proven model is simple and smart and will save Utahns money and improve property value.
- Utah municipalities are interested in offering Energy Improvement Property Assessment programs that enable homeowners to make voluntary energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their homes. This bill will enable cities and counties in Utah to offer this program to their constituents.

Representing over 5,000 high-tech, life science, and clean-tech companies in Utah, UTC supports legislation that creates a positive business climate for highly-innovative, high-growth companies to thrive. UTC feels that SB 194 will help to that end and respectfully asks that you vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Nelson".

Richard R. Nelson  
President and CEO