

## UTC 2010 Public Policy Impact

UTC's Performance in the 2010 Legislative Session:  
100 Percent Success on High-Priority Support/Opposition



# GROWTH

### **E-Commerce Integrity Act (SB 26) –PASSED-**

*UTC Supported This Bill*

#### **What it does:**

Designed to strengthen Utah's laws dealing with **phishing** and **spyware**, including new provisions dealing with **cybersquatting**, this landmark legislation places Utah at the national forefront of trademark protection legislation.

#### **What it means for you:**

This bill gives Utah businesses greater protection against people and trends that threaten to undermine trademarks and other core aspects of corporate identity.

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### **Renewable Energy Financing Provisions (HB 145) –PASSED-**

*UTC's #1 Clean Tech Priority*

#### **What it does:**

Enables Utah's non-profit groups, local governments, schools and churches to take advantage of innovative funding and tax incentives for renewable energy projects.

#### **What it means for you:**

This bill will help grow Utah's clean tech and renewable energy markets, which will create direct and indirect benefits for Utah businesses, including new jobs and other promising opportunities.

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### **Sales and Use Tax Exemption for a Web Search Portal (SB 61) –PASSED-**

*UTC Supported This Bill*

#### **What it does:**

Provides sales and use tax exemptions for certain purchases or leases for use in operating a Web search portal.

#### **What it means for you:**

This bill helps create a positive business environment for Utah tech companies, and will save many businesses money by exempting sales tax of server and Web search portal hardware purchases.

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### **Recycling of Electronic Items (HB 153) –NO VOTE-**

*UTC Opposed This Bill*

#### **What it would have done:**

Would have imposed new fees and restrictions on manufacturers of electronic items, establishing a recycling program that most manufacturers already supply.

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### **Unlawful Provision of Identifiable Prescription Information (HB 104) –NO VOTE-**

*UTC opposed this bill*

#### **What it would have done:**

Would have impeded the state's efforts to grow and retain its life sciences sector, which in turn would have significantly undermined the state's leadership position in the life sciences.

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# QUALITY WORKFORCE

**Budget: Holding public and higher education harmless –SUCCESSFUL–**  
*UTC Supported This Bill*

**What it does:**

UTC was the first organization to support Governor Herbert's core budget principles, including maintaining public and higher education funding. Appropriate funding for Utah's schools is essential to providing quality education that prepares Utah students to make a positive impact.

**What it means for you:**

Utah's future workforce avoided further cuts to the education system, including programs essential to enhancing our workforce pipeline.

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**Authorization of Charter Schools by Higher Education (SB 55) –PASSED–**  
*UTC Supported This Bill*

**What it does:**

Allows higher education institutions to authorize establishment & operation of charter schools.

**What it means for you:**

Higher educational institutions will set high student achievement standards in schools that they administer. Many will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum, helping to produce a quality workforce to fuel Utah's innovative companies.

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**Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (UPASS); Amendments (SB 16) –PASSED–**  
*UTC Supported This Bill*

**What it does:**

Eliminates a cap on the number of school districts and charter schools that may participate in a pilot assessment system for students designed to help improve workforce preparation through more rigorous evaluation of students' progress.

**What it means for you:**

Student's skills and progress will be better evaluated helping to create a more prepared workforce for Utah's businesses.

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**FUNDING**

**Utah Fund of Funds – STUDY ONLY –**  
*UTC Supported This Study*

**What it does:**

Study to improve upon current Utah Fund of Funds legislation during the interim.

**What it means for you:**

Will help support and enhance the ability of the Utah Fund of Funds program to bring the life blood of funding to promising technology companies.

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**Seed Fund of Funds – STUDY ONLY –**  
*UTC Supported This Study*

**What it does:**

Study of legislation that similar to the Utah Fund of Funds, but focusing on seed funding for promising companies.

**What it means for you:**

The Utah Fund of Funds has helped attract essential funding for Utah's technology businesses. A fund focusing on seed companies would further fuel the growth of Utah startups.

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<b>OTHER</b>	<p><b>Ethics Reform –PASSED–</b> <i>UTC Supported These Bills</i> <b>HB 124; HB 267; HB 270; HJR 14; HJR 15</b></p> <p><u>What it does:</u> A suite of “meaningful and significant” legislation focused on fostering transparency and accountability. A far better alternative to a current ballot initiative that would remove business expertise and experience from the legislative process.</p> <p><u>What it means for you:</u> The aforementioned current ballot initiative would have devastating consequences for businesses if passed. For example: If this extreme initiative passed, NO controlling executive of a company or relatives of these individuals would be able to serve in Utah’s legislature. The package of ethics reform bills that passed addressed the concerns of transparency and accountability of Utah’s legislature without depriving Utah’s legislature and the citizens they serve of some of the state’s most dedicated and talented people.</p>
	<hr/> <p><b>Health System Reform Amendments (HB 294) –PASSED–</b> <i>UTC Supported This Bill</i></p> <p><u>What it does:</u> Helps further improve Utah’s leading role in health system reform – making key refinements and other modifications to an already-established health system exchange program.</p> <p><u>What it means for you:</u> Businesses and employees who choose to participate in this pilot program will have greater choice in selecting among competing insurance plans.</p>
	<hr/> <p><b>Bioprospecting (SB 51) –PASSED–</b> <i>UTC Supported This Bill</i></p> <p><u>What it does:</u> Designed to strike an enlightened balance between research access to Utah’s micro-organisms with protecting/preserving the value of the state’s natural resources.</p> <p><u>What it means for you:</u> Balances access to Utah’s micro-organisms for research with protection of the value of the state’s unique biological resources.</p>

UTC's extraordinary influence and success in the 2010 Utah legislative session was driven by the input and interests of our members. We offer our sincere thanks to those of you who got involved in this session, and invite all of you to make your voices and ideas heard through UTC's dynamic legislative process.