

MINUTES OF PUBLIC POLICY FORUM
February 12, 2016, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Co-chair Gary Goodrich and Mark McBride
Held at Utah State Capitol, Training Room 70

Those in attendance: Senator Curt Bramble, Mark Griffin of Overstock.com, Gary Goodrich of Manti Central LLC, Erica Dahl and Steve Mecham of Vivint Solar, Daniela Larsen of Navanas Institute, Paul Lethbridge of ANSYS, Mark Polson of Code Greene, Craig Rees of ANSYS, Ross Whitaker of University of Utah School of Computing, Tara Thue of AT&T, Steve Mac of ANKRD, Ben Hart of GOED, Tom Lund of Tanner LLC, Erich Sontag of Banner Bank, Neil Ashdown of Rocky Mountain Power, James Campbell of Rocky Mountain Power, David Copeland of Sego Strategies & Consulting, Jeff and Paul Rogers of Paul Rogers and Associates, Jonathan Jackson and Richard Nelson of the UTC.

Gary Goodrich conducted the meeting.

Welcome and Brief Introductions – Richard Nelson, President and CEO, UTC

Minutes – *The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from February 3, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

HB61: Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Changes – Presented by Senator Curt Bramble

- Senator Bramble explained there are three factors: sales, assets, and wages, and used IM Flash as an example.
- When asked the fiscal cost, his response was that it may be as high as \$130M, but he didn't know how much would go to the tech sector.
- When asked who is on the opposing side, he responded Education and advocates for entitlement programs.
- The economic benefit definitely exceeds the \$130M fiscal note and would become an important economic benefit to the State and the technology industry. Could be much smaller depending on the scope of NAICS codes included.
- Representative John Knotwell, a senior tech executive, is championing this bill.
- Discussion about this started on a limited scale 15 years ago.

A motion was made and seconded to accept this as a High Priority status. The motion passed unanimously.

SB115: Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan – Presented by James Campbell, Rocky Mountain Power

- Mr. Campbell discussed the desire to have prepayments on existing coal fleet to eliminate huge balloon payments and level it out. To set up a regulatory fund, recover variable costs on a year to year basis, each year have an energy balance account. To make it in line with other states. Note: No increase costs to ratepayers.
- Clean Air Initiatives
 - Have an aggressive electric vehicle infrastructure. Partner with businesses to install charging stations for their employees, putting the capability in the workplace.
 - We have to transition to zero-emitting vehicles.
 - Offer green energy tariff, which allows Rocky Mountain Power to buy renewables for the business. The business only pays slightly above the solar farm price. Voluntary option.
- Battery technology research.
- Erica Dahl and Steve Mecham of Vivint Solar commented:

Vivint Solar doesn't take a position on this bill, but do have concerns.

- Paul Rogers commented that we want to say yes to green energy, and say yes to both Rocky Mountain Power and Vivint Solar.

A motion was made and seconded to support both bills, SB115: Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan Act and HB244: Independent Energy Producer Amendments (solar net-metering support), at the same time. The motion passed unanimously.

UTC Bill Watch/Review Assigned – Presented by Jeff Rogers, Paul Rogers & Associates

- **Brief discussion about HB241:** Computer Abuse & Data Recovery Act
Jeff Rogers explained that this is a pro-business bill for businesses, but creates penalties for individuals.
- **Brief Discussion about HB155:** Reporting of Child Pornography
Sponsors of bill have been responsive to our concerns and have imbedded all of the changes and gotten the bill cleaned up, which includes fines vs. personal liability.
It was recommended that we let them know that we appreciate their efforts and thank them.

A motion was made and seconded to voice support on this bill. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Brief Discussion about HB251:** Post-Employment Restrictions Amendments
We have concerns on both sides of this issue (2 sessions ago), and will wait to hear from Holland and Hart.
- **Brief Discussion about HB277:** Personalized Learning & Teaching Amendments
Speaker Lockhart's number one bill
Looking at about \$50M
Paul Rogers stated that the framework is worthwhile and the State Superintendents all endorse it (within the scope of getting their minimum WPU to operate).

A motion was made and seconded to accept this as a High Priority status. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Brief Discussion about SB103:** Strategic Workforce Investments
Richard Nelson suggested we move this to High Priority status. The IT Innovation Jobs Initiative became this bill. It's about using incentives to increase stackable training to help with short term talent shortage.

A motion was made and seconded to accept this as a High Priority status. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Brief Discussion about HB235:** Remote Transaction Parity Act
Discussion included concerns not being addressed yet. eBay is neutral on this bill.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.