

MINUTES OF PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

February 3, 2016, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Co-chair Mark McBride

Held at Utah State Capitol, Training Room 70

Those in attendance: Senator Curt Bramble, Senator Ann Millner, Mark Griffin of Overstock.com, Brent Petersen of Comcast, Katie Stevens of eBay, Marilyn Davies of University of Utah College of Engineering, Dave Copeland of Seago Strategies, Tamara Goetz of STEM Action Center, Gary Goodrich of Manti Central LLC, Ron Hilton of Proximal Systems Corporation, Vatsala Kaul of GOED, Jeff Rogers of Paul Rogers and Associates, Gary Thorup of Durham Jones & Pinegar, Steven Bergman of Richards Brandt Miller Nelson, David Dobbins of Draper City, Ben Hart of GOED, Justin Jones of Salt Lake Chamber, Jarod Marrott of Kirton McConkie, Representative Mike McKell, Bassam Salem of Mindshare Ventures, Tara Thue of AT&T, Jack Walkenhorst of All West Communications, Angie Welling of Google, Drew Clark of Best Best & Krieger, Karen Gunn of Salt Lake Community College, Vance Checketts of EMC, Gene Levinzon of Goldman Sachs, Joe Pyrah of Microsoft, Jenifer Scott of Senator Chaffetz's Office, Kelleigh Cole of GOED, Kathy Evans of Listen Technologies Corp., Chellie Wyatt of Listen Technologies Corp., Representative Bruce Cutler, Curtis Linton of School Improvement Network, Steve Mac of ANKRD, 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 January 29, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

SB103: Strategic Workforce Investments (formerly known as IT Innovation Jobs Init.) – Presented by Sen. Ann Millner

- 39,000 jobs currently open
- Need stackable credentials
- Proposal's Focus:
 - Regional partnerships
 - GOED partner or take lead (?)
 - \$5M ongoing industry request to fund proposals, Governor's budget \$0
 - If we don't have the talent, we can't grow

HB235: Remote Transaction Parity Act (Online Sales Tax) Presented by Sen. Curt Bramble

- Senator Bramble made the following comments:
 - There are regulatory barriers.
 - Increases in online sales are double digit.
 - There is an erosion of our sales tax base.
 - This would be an administration of collecting online sales tax to shore up the base.
 - Seventeen years ago (1998) Governor Leavitt started this initiative.
 - Senator Chaffetz supports this bill as it would put pressure on Congress to act on this at the national level to achieve a federal solution.
 - Bills 65 and 85 are dead as of last week.
- Mark Griffin made the following comments:
 - He doesn't want to deal with a patchwork effect where some states tax and some states don't tax.
 - He does support a federal online tax.

- This bill focuses on a tech-centered issue.
- Representative McKell made the following comments:
Our income tax is rising and our sales tax is not.
He wants GOED to get funding, but may need to start taking funding away because we are losing revenue.
There is an erosion: low is \$80M and the high is \$350M
No state has done this and been able to attain neutrality.
He is happy to consider an exemption for eBay.
We need a solution today.
 - Dave Copeland would like to be on the task force.
 - Katie Stevens make the following comments:
eBay provides online service to retailers
Their concern is the impact this would have to small businesses
The issue is the patchwork effect (some states tax, some don't)
They are seeing a reduction of affiliates

Talent Recruitment & Branding Presented by Ben Hart, GOED

- The branding campaign will be used to engage people into considering Utah as a place to move to and live. Once we can get people here, we can keep them here.
- 2,300 people have already engaged on the website.
- There is no funding – we are at a critical junction.
- The unemployment rate and the talent shortage rate are on a collision course.
- Need a group to take this sooner than later. GOED is the wrong organization to take this on as it is not in the Governor's budget.

UTC Bill Watch/Review Assigned Presented by Jeff Rogers

- Brief Discussion about HB155: Reporting of Child Pornography
It looks good and everyone would be happy with the language of the bill if the amendment is adopted. If it is, UTC can support this bill.
Jeff Rogers stated that 12 other states have enacted this bill.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.