

MINUTES OF PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

January 29, 2016, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Co-chair Mark McBride

Held at UTC Offices

Those in attendance: Dan Black of Vivint Solar, Stan Lockhart of IMFlash, Mark Griffin of Overstock.com, Brent Petersen of Comcast, Katie Stevens of eBay, Rob Brems of UCAT, Marilyn Davies of University of Utah College of Engineering, Lisa Birch of Mountainland ATC, Brad Bjelke of UtahRealEstate.com, Lee Brinton of Meadow Creek Development, Richard Brown of University of Utah, Scott Brown of Salt Lake Community College, Dave Copeland of Seago Strategies, Theresa Anne Foxley of GOED, Tamara Goetz of STEM Action Center, Gary Goodrich of Manti Central LLC, Ron Hilton of Proximal Systems Corporation, Vatsala Kaul of GOED, Al Landon of Eccles School of Business, Brent Lorimer of Workman Nydegger, Thomas Lund of Tanner LLC, Jacob Maklewicz of Kirton McKonkie, Mark McBride of LANDESK, Garner Meads of Vivint Solar, Brad Petersen of PatriotVUE, Jeff Rogers of Paul Rogers and Associates, John Sutherland of BYU, Gary Thorup of Durham Jones & Pinegar, Angie Tymofichuk of LSI, Jack Walkenhorst of All West Communications, Ross Whitaker of University of Utah, Chris Wight of Snow, Christensen & Martineau, Mike Winder of Zions Bank, Jonathan Jackson and Richard Nelson of the UTC

Mark McBride conducted the meeting.

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

Vivint Solar Proposed Legislation – Presented by Dan Black

- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)
 - A PPA and a rooftop solar energy system allows a consumer to select energy provider.
 - The consumer only pays for the power produced by the system.
 - System owner is responsible for financing, installation, maintenance and operation.
- Current Utah Law: Vivint Solar is not permitted to offer PPAs to residential customers.
- Utah Is Different - most states do not prohibit third-party PPAs
- Sales Tax Exemption
 - State of Utah is interested in promoting renewables based on tax exemptions that exist today.
 - Today, Utah law exempts sales tax for large scale energy producers. However, small businesses and consumers with solar arrays must pay the full state and local sales tax.
 - Utah should fix this preferential treatment of large energy producers, and provide the same sales tax exemption to all taxpayers.
 - The states with the highest proliferation of distributed solar are those states with sales tax exemptions for all sizes of renewable energy producers.
- Property Tax Exemption
 - If a consumer purchases a solar energy system, he/she does not pay property tax to the county because the solar panels are part of the household's furnishings and equipment – exempt under the Utah State Constitution.
 - Current Utah law: if same consumer chooses to lease a solar energy system or enters in to a PPA, they will be charged for personal property taxes assessed by the County on the system owner.
 - The proposed exemption fixes this contradiction. No matter if a consumer leases, enters into a PPA, or choses to purchase a solar energy system, the system should not be taxed by the County.
- Utah is Different - most states do not tax solar energy systems.
- Current Utah Law: Real property restrictive covenants (such as those found in HOA bylaws and CC&R'S) may unreasonably restrict and even prohibit the installation of residential solar energy systems.
- Utah is Different - most states have solar access or solar rights laws.

STEM Action Center

- Richard Nelson provided background on the STEM initiative and UTC's role
Industry request to sustain program is \$15M ongoing. Sustainability of main digital math tools for students is main concern.
- Information Presentation by Tami Goetz, Executive Director STEM Action Center,

- Math Initiative
 - Handout “Why Math Counts” was distributed to attendees – target K-12 proficiency
 - Funding is critical because schools are used to “bait-n-switch” tactics. We need to extend the life of this program to gain the schools trust.
 - Fidelity: Finally able to conduct a third party evaluation. Test scores showed positive effect signs with nine products. When using the products, six of those selected products showed a better chance of proficiency, and two of those selected products showed significant gains in proficiency. Of the 90% gains, 50% were Fidelity. 30% of low-usage schools is because of the lack of access to devices (computers, etc.). There are 342 teachers currently in the first cohort. There were 386 teachers who requested to be in it, but the STEM Action Center didn’t have the funding.
 - Copies of letters from teachers sharing their positive experiences with the new online mathematics programs for their students were distributed.

Industry Request: Reach out to 3-5 legislators to speak with them about the Math Initiative. The handout offers talking points, if needed.

STEM Fest next week

- They expect 20,000 students to attend STEM Fest and have 65 companies that will offer engaging demonstrations and activities. It will be held at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy. Governor Herbert is planning to attend the breakfast.
- The STEM Action Center is working with Southern Utah to bring events to their area.

Additional comments

- They have aired 27,000 commercials over the past two years. Corporate sponsors have been a real gain. There are grant programs for STEM Certification with 800 students enrolled.
- They are looking for UTC members to help with the K-12 Computer Sciences programs.
- Without funding, the math program will end at the end of this school year.

Bill Watch

- Jeff Rogers distributed a handout, “UTC Bill Watch List.” Each bill was discussed and a member was assigned to each bill to research the bill, talk to the legislators, and then return to the next Public Policy Forum with recommendations.

Talent Recruitment

- Theresa Foxley, Managing Director, GOED, spoke about the Utah tech network and offered to sit down with Jeff Rogers at a later time for a more comprehensive discussion.

Patent Reform

- Ron Hilton, PSC Founder & CEO, spoke about Patent Reform. Richard Nelson invited Ron to continue to attend these meetings.

Custom Fit Funding

- Robert Brems, President, UCAT, spoke about Custom Fit funding for UCAT and SLCC. Theresa said UCAT is a great partner. Richard Nelson asked everyone to help this get the highest allocation, at least double.

HB52 Utah Recreation Infrastructure Development Fund

- Brad Petersen, COO, Patriot Vue, Inc., spoke about the ability to access outdoor recreation and how it is what brings people to Utah. He is asking for \$5M to support this bill. It is a one-time fund. He wants a passive support from UTC. There was a motion and second to support this bill as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes – The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from January 14, 2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.