



February 26, 2013

Dear Utah Legislator:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Technology Council (UTC), I write to inform you that **UTC has taken a position to support S.B. 110 – School-Based Budgeting** (Sen. Stephenson, H.).

The reasons for our support of this bill include:

- It creates a system of outstanding schools in Utah led by great principals who have the authority, resources and responsibility to teach all students well.
- It engages those closest to the students in making key decisions that impact the students.
- It empowers schools and holds them responsible.
- It provides for fair and transparent funding that schools can count on annually.
- It develops an equitable, simple and transparent approach to help schools get better results for students.
- That funding should arrive at the school as real dollars – not as teaching positions, ratios or staffing norms – that can be spent flexibly, with accountability.

This bill helps support one of UTC's three core high priorities – to ensure that Utah develops the highest **QUALITY WORKFORCE** in the nation to fuel our growth companies.

Since it became our top priority in 2006, UTC has been at the forefront in advancing rigor and relevance in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. We were the only organization who worked with the State School Board to increase high school requirements for math, science, and language arts with Governor Huntsman and his GOED board. We also actively participated on the USOE Math Steering Committee and encouraged the approval of 12th grade math along with other recommendations critical to prepare our 600,000 "underserved students" for the thousands of open, high-paying jobs in our industry.

Representing over 5,500 high-tech, clean-tech and life science companies in Utah, UTC supports legislation that creates a quality workforce for these innovative, high-growth companies. UTC feels that S.B. 110 will help to that end and respectfully asks for your support of this bill. We value your excellent public service. As always, I'd welcome hearing from you.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard R. Nelson".

Richard R. Nelson
President and CEO
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