

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 212 – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Sponsor: Representative Christie F. Watkins

Floor Sponsor: Senator David P. Hinkins

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill makes changes to the Energy Resource Procurement Act.

Discussion: The intent of 1st Substitute HB 212 is to make energy transmission more efficient. Representative Watkins believes that by utilizing technology, efficiency can be created which would lower costs for rate-payers, expand capacity, and decrease wildfire risks without the need to build more infrastructure. The Bill encourages utility service providers to evaluate the available software and hardware technologies and directs the Public Utilities Commission to encourage the use of cost-effective advanced transmission technologies (“ATTs”). No public comments were made.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 212 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation and was placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Bill: HB 229 – Transportation Funds Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Kay J. Christofferson

Floor Sponsor: Senator Wayne A. Harper

UASD Position: Support

This Bill amends provisions related to corridor preservation to include fixed guideway public transit facilities for corridor preservation.

Discussion: Representative Christofferson explained that the state has a fund dedicated to corridor preservation. This Bill allows the state to secure rights-of-way for future projects. With recent governance changes at the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”), this fund has been utilized for road projects and has expanded to include responsibilities for transit rail—such as fixing corridors for trains and bus rapid transit systems. HB 229 enables the purchase of rights-of-way for these corridor projects, aligning with UDOTs expanded responsibilities. The Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) and the Wasatch Front Regional Council spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 229 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation and was placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

UNASSD