



April 15, 2020

Utah State Legislature
350 North State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Representative Hawkes and Senator Anderegg,

The Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) supports special session draft legislation "Local Government Emergency Response." As the COVID-19 crisis continues, the state and cities of Utah face unprecedented challenges, and we appreciate your efforts to craft responsible solutions as we move forward.

"Local Government Emergency Response" authorizes the governor to repeal a local order in the very limited circumstances where a statewide emergency has been declared and a municipal-wide local order fails to follow the unified efforts of the state. We strongly support the authority of locally elected officials to respond to their cities' unique circumstances but recognize that this narrowly tailored authority of the governor is appropriate in a pandemic or other statewide crisis.

The legislation also prohibits local health departments from issuing orders in response to a declared emergency. In times of crisis, we share concerns about politicizing health and safety decisions. However, we are comfortable with the bill's provisions placing this authority with the county or city chief executive who will consult with the local health departments regarding the appropriate response to the needs of their respective communities.

Finally, we appreciate inclusion of amendments requested by the League, including amendments to the Open and Public Meetings Act, the Government Records Access and Management Act, the town and cities uniform fiscal procedures acts, deadline extension for public funds deposits, and plat signatures. These requests come from our members as they navigate compliance with state law and continue to keep cities open for business, while making every effort to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. We have worked on these requests with the State Auditor, the State Treasurer, and other stakeholders, and appreciate their input.

We look forward to working with you on this and other bills, including the distribution of the CARES Act federal funds to reimburse COVID-19 costs and diminish economic impacts. Utah's cities are dedicated to innovating in and tackling these difficult times. We appreciate your ongoing collaboration and personal commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Mendenhall'.

Mike Mendenhall
President; Spanish Fork Council Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Caldwell'.

Mike Caldwell
1st Vice President; Ogden Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Ramsey'.

Dawn Ramsey
2nd Vice President; South Jordan Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Hill'.

Gary Hill
Utah City Mgmt. Assoc.; Bountiful City Manager



Jon Pike
Immed. Past President; St. George Mayor



Cameron Diehl
Executive Director

#CitiesWork

Utah League of Cities and Towns | 50 South 600 East, Suite 150 | Salt Lake City, Utah 84102 | 801-328-1601 | ulct.org