

Received by:

Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Suite 200
350 North State Street
P.O. Box 142220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

09/09/2018

April 3, 2018

Dear Governor Herbert,

We are the community members and business leaders who neighbor the proposed inland port development outlined in S.B. 234. We come to you with grave concerns about this legislation and how it will affect our community. We are encouraged by your recognition of some of the shortcomings of this legislation and your announcement that a special legislative session will be convened to address these concerns. Please hear the voices of local community members as you work to improve this legislation.

The development of the inland port will have drastic consequences for our neighborhoods. We will see new traffic hazards, environmental consequences that impact public health, harmful noise and dust from construction, and a plethora of issues related to increased use of rail in the area. These effects will not be contained to the area designated in the legislation but will spill over into the entire Salt Lake Valley, particularly West Salt Lake City.

With your longstanding record of support for local voices in land use issues, we ask for a strong voice on the Inland Port Authority. Currently there are no board positions designated for community members. We request that at least two positions on the board be specifically reserved for people from West Salt Lake City neighborhoods, who will be most impacted by the project.

We are also concerned with the process used to pass this bill. Substantial and drastic changes to S.B. 234 were made at the last-minute. Among these were a severely diminished role for Salt Lake City leaders, a greater share of tax increment for the State, broader boundaries for the project, and the elimination of the Port Authority's responsibility to "promote a high quality of life for residents of the area" and to "mitigate any negative impacts on and enhance opportunities for surrounding communities." Unfortunately, these changes appeared to be the product of political bullying tactics rather than well-considered policy decisions. We ask that you lead the State Legislature in reconsidering these provisions, working in true partnership with City leaders, to place a high priority on the local impact of this important project.

Unfortunately, the process and substance of S.B. 234 has contributed to a familiar narrative: that residents of West Salt Lake City routinely get bowled over by the wealthy and powerful. We have worked hard to combat this narrative. We have bought and improved homes, opened businesses, formed community organizations, enhanced art & culture, and invested our lives in this area. Together, we have built a valuable and thriving community here. We deserve a voice in its future.

Sincerely,



Dan Strong, Chair
Rose Park
Community Council



Dennis Faris, Chair
Poplar Grove
Community Council



Dorothy Owen, Chair
Westpointe
Community Council



Bobbi Brooks, Chair
Jordan Meadows
Community Council



Bryce Garner, Chair
Fairpark
Community Council



Dane Hess, Chair
Glendale
Community Council