

February 22, 2024

Dear Governor Cox:

As an innovative state with a strong history of environmental stewardship, we are proud that Utah is embracing its role as a leader in energy and climate solutions for a modern era under your leadership. With this in mind, we want to share our strong support for the Department of Environmental Quality's work on its "Beehive Emission Reduction Plan." This plan would lay the foundation for a Utah-based strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while allowing Utah to access new federal funds that can improve the health and well-being of Utah communities. This effort builds on important past energy and environmental planning initiatives, including the Utah Roadmap, the Climate and Clean Air Compact, and the Chamber of Commerce's [Business Vision for Utah's Energy Future](#), among others.

We want to share the following as your administration reviews the draft plan:

Reducing emissions benefits Utah's economy: Climate solutions present important economic opportunities that not only protect our communities from climate change, but also support new and emerging industries across our state. Utah has strong solar, wind, and geothermal resources, along with tremendous potential to be a leader in high performance, ultra-efficient homes and buildings. Energy efficiency programs create jobs, while also insulating residents against higher energy costs. Importantly, the Beehive Emissions Reduction Plan will also support Utah's 2034 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, as we seek to achieve a Games that can leave a legacy of being "climate positive."

The plan should prioritize clean energy and efforts to reduce emissions in buildings, transportation, electricity generation, and methane leaks: The Beehive Emissions Reduction Plan can offer the most benefit to Utah by focusing on the sectors with the greatest emissions and the most transformative opportunities. We believe that Utah will benefit by including near- and long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our electricity sector, buildings, the transportation sector, and fugitive methane emissions from oil and gas production in its emissions reduction plans. [Information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#) shows that these areas are responsible for the vast majority of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The plans by PacifiCorp to bring online zero-emissions resources, transmission, and energy storage as part of its 2023 Integrated Resource Plan are a critical part of an affordable, low-emissions electricity system, and we encourage your administration to provide support in realizing those plans. While we believe there is a broad range of worthy climate solutions, making progress on energy, transportation, and methane leakage is the foundation of a strategy to reduce emissions cost-effectively.

Strategies should benefit all communities within the state: New national resources are available through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and other areas to help Utah thrive as we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a global energy transition. We thank your administration for its work to secure these resources for Utah communities. Your administration can continue to work to bolster programs and planning that will support energy communities as well as communities impacted by poor air quality in our state.

We look forward to working with you and your administration on this plan and helping Utah capitalize on the many benefits that climate solutions can bring to our economy and our communities.

Sincerely,

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