

Statement from the Stop the Polluting Port Coalition on the departure of Jack Hedge:

Failed Utah Inland Port Authority is a waste of taxpayer money

The Utah Inland Port Authority is a failure--a waste of taxpayer money--and should be dissolved before more harm is done.

The idea of a Utah inland port was hastily conceived in a fog of unbridled ambition, but without a viable business model that any private company would have required. Its consequences to Salt Lake residents were never considered. Over the four years of its existence the Port Authority has spent more than \$40 million in taxpayer dollars. Its accomplishments are expensive office space, well-paid staff and consultants, and \$150 million of tax-payer- backed bonds for which quarterly reports are not published even though the bonds produce tax-free interest for its investors.

The problems with the Port Authority can be traced to the poorly vetted, hastily passed 2018 legislation that created it, and in each year since the flagrant waste of tax money has increased.

UIPA has had three different boards in four years, and now we are learning of the departure of UIPA President (formerly Executive Director), Jack Hedge.

It's time to dissolve the Utah Inland Port Authority and let local governments guide the development of this area.