

SENATE DISTRICT	NAME	1. What is your thinking about using the Utah Inland Port model as a tool for economic development across the state and within, or close to, your district? In particular, how does the tax increment ratio (the split of the increased property tax revenue between UIPA and local governments) influence your thinking about a rewarding outcome for the communities affected by a port? Who do you think should have the ultimate land use authority for an inland port?	2. What type, or degree, of pollution is unacceptable at an inland port? In particular, is wetlands protection important and whose responsibility is it?
Senate District 3 Morgan/Summit/Weber Unaffiliated	Stacy Bernal	The Weber County Port is in my community and is described on the STPPC website as a classic "sweetheart deal" for developers. In terms of this port model as a tool for economic development, I feel that there is room for improvement since "Weber County agreed to give 75% of the tax differential to UIPA and developers and only keep 25% for the local taxing entities who are required to provide services for the area." I think this disproportionately benefits developers and places an unnecessary burden on residents. I think the land use authority for the inland ports should lie with the local governing bodies as they have a better understanding of their communities' needs. These governing bodies should work closely with environmental subject matter experts and other stakeholders who will advocate on behalf of the interests of residents, both current and future.	Strong measures should be taken to reduce all forms of pollution as much as possible. Utah already has some of the worst air quality in the nation and policies need to address mitigating and protecting not only air quality but also the wetlands. This is of upmost importance in order to preserve that ecosystem as well as the Great Salt Lake.
Senate District 8 Davis/Salt Lake Counties Democrat	Aaron Wiley	Utilizing the Utah Inland Port model for economic development can stimulate growth in our communities, but it must be approached with a balanced mindset. The tax increment ratio, which allocates increased property tax revenue between UIPA and local governments, is crucial. A fair split ensures local governments can adequately fund services and infrastructure while promoting economic development. Ultimately, local authorities should hold land use authority, allowing them to prioritize community needs and environmental protections. Community engagement is vital to ensure that development aligns with local interests, creating a holistic plan that benefits both the economy and the environment.	At an inland port, any level of pollution that negatively impacts air quality, water sources, or community health is unacceptable. Protecting wetlands is essential, as they serve as critical habitats and natural buffers against pollution. Responsibility for this protection lies with both developers and local governments, who must implement and enforce regulations. Leveraging technology, improved processes, and community involvement can guide our efforts to minimize pollution and protect vital ecosystems. By adopting sustainable practices and actively engaging with the community, we can create a development model that supports economic growth while safeguarding our environment.
Senate District 12 NW Salt Lake County/Tooele County Republican	Judy Weeks-Rohner	I have been opposed to the inland port but I don't know how to stop it! I have held meetings with the inland port people and those against. The consensus was that it is a done deal and we need to make them accountable for the money being spent.	Unfortunately the Union Pacific runs so close to wetlands, etc. I am not sure what the solution is but an independent environmental study would be helpful. I am definitely concerned about the bird habitat in the Box Elder area.
Senate District 15 Salt Lake County Democrat	Kathleen Riebe	The Utah Inland Port has evolved into a group of projects with the spoke model. Tax increments, regardless of the project, need to benefit the surrounding communities. I would not support a project that does not have a positive impact. I believe the local community and council should have the ultimate land use authority. I appreciate the Inland Port Authority's ability to divest moeny throughout the state.	Pollution needs ro be reduced. Wetlands and sensitive ecosystems need to be protected. It is everyone's responsibility to protect these ecosystems. As Utah's population grows and the demands on our infrastructure grows we need to lean on the experts to mitigate detrimental impacts on our communities by moving to cleaner energy sources and cleaner transportation oiptions whenever possible.

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Senate District 16 Salt Lake County Unaffiliated	Monnica Manuel	<p>Using the Utah Inland Port model as a tool for economic development across the state and within our district requires a nuanced approach that prioritizes the well-being of our communities. While the Inland Port has potential to drive significant economic growth, it is crucial that we carefully consider how this growth translates into tangible benefits for local residents.</p> <p>The tax increment ratio—the split of increased property tax revenue between the Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA) and local governments—plays a significant role in determining whether the economic benefits are equitably shared. It is essential that local governments receive a fair share of these revenues to ensure they have the resources needed to address the increased demand on public services, infrastructure, and community amenities that come with the development of an inland port. An equitable tax increment ratio helps ensure that the local communities affected by the port are not left bearing an undue burden and can share in the prosperity generated.</p> <p>Regarding land use authority, I believe that the ultimate decision-making power should rest with local governments. They have a more direct understanding of the unique needs and priorities of their communities. While the UIPA has a role in coordinating and advancing the port's development, local authorities should have significant input and oversight to ensure that land use decisions align with community interests and sustainable development goals.</p> <p>In summary, while the Utah Inland Port model has potential, it must be implemented with a focus on fairness and local control to truly benefit all stakeholders involved.</p>	<p>Addressing pollution at an inland port is crucial to ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of environmental health. The types and degrees of pollution that are unacceptable include, but are not limited to, air pollution from emissions, water contamination from runoff, and soil degradation from industrial activities. We must set stringent standards to prevent these forms of pollution and protect the environment.</p> <p>Wetlands protection is particularly important. Wetlands serve as critical habitats for wildlife, act as natural water filters, and help mitigate flooding. Their preservation is not just an environmental concern but also a community health issue. Therefore, we must ensure that the development of an inland port does not adversely impact these vital ecosystems.</p> <p>Responsibility for wetlands protection should be shared among various stakeholders. The port authority, local governments, and state agencies all have roles to play in enforcing environmental regulations and monitoring pollution levels. However, it is essential that there is a clear framework for accountability and that these responsibilities are well-coordinated to effectively safeguard our wetlands and other natural resources.</p> <p>In summary, we must adopt rigorous environmental standards and ensure that all parties involved in the inland port's development are committed to protecting our natural environment, including wetlands. This approach ensures that economic development can proceed in a way that is sustainable and respectful of our natural heritage.</p>

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Senate District 17 Salt Lake County Unaffiliated	Pamela Bloom	<p>I appreciate the work of the Stop the Polluting Ports Coalition and share your concerns about the transparency, governance, and community impacts of the Utah Inland Port Authority's operations. The use of the Inland Port model as a tool for economic development needs careful scrutiny, especially given the significant financial implications for local communities.</p> <p>The current tax increment model, where the UIPA claims a substantial portion of post-development property tax increases, is troubling. This diversion of funds away from local governments means that the money which should be supporting critical local services—like schools, emergency response, and infrastructure improvements—is instead being redirected to the UIPA. This raises serious questions about the fairness and long-term sustainability of the port model, especially when local communities bear the brunt of the environmental and logistical impacts without seeing the full financial benefits.</p> <p>Regarding who should have the ultimate land use authority for an inland port, I firmly believe that this power should rest with local governments rather than the UIPA. Local land use decisions are best made by those who are directly accountable to the residents affected by them. When local governments maintain control, they can better ensure that development aligns with community needs, environmental standards, and long-term sustainability goals. This local oversight is essential for maintaining trust and ensuring that any economic benefits from the port are equitably shared.</p> <p>The concerns raised by the audits and reports on UIPA's lack of transparency and the financial risks posed to taxpayers further highlight the need for greater accountability. The unchecked expansion of inland ports across the state, with plans for multiple new developments annually, calls for a reassessment of whether these projects are truly benefiting the communities they impact or if they are primarily serving the interests of the UIPA and its stakeholders.</p> <p>I support greater oversight of the UIPA, increased transparency in its financial dealings, and a reevaluation of the tax increment model to ensure that local communities are not sacrificing essential public services for the sake of development. Economic development should not come at the expense of community well-being, and I am committed to advocating for a more balanced approach that prioritizes the needs and voices of local residents.</p>	<p>Any degree of pollution that poses a significant risk to public health, the environment, or the quality of life for nearby communities is unacceptable. This includes, but is not limited to, air pollution from increased truck and train traffic, noise pollution, water contamination, and emissions from industrial activities associated with the port. The impact on air quality, especially in areas already struggling with pollution, cannot be ignored, and strict standards must be enforced to minimize these effects.</p> <p>Wetlands protection is particularly important because wetlands serve as crucial ecosystems that support biodiversity, provide natural flood control, and improve water quality by filtering pollutants. Preserving these areas is not just an environmental issue but also a public health and community concern, as wetlands contribute to the overall resilience of our landscapes against climate change impacts.</p> <p>Responsibility for protecting wetlands should be shared across multiple levels of government and stakeholders. The Utah Inland Port Authority, as the entity driving port development, has a primary responsibility to ensure that its activities do not harm these sensitive areas. This includes conducting thorough environmental impact assessments, adhering to state and federal regulations, and implementing mitigation measures where necessary.</p> <p>Local governments and environmental agencies must also play a critical role in monitoring compliance and advocating for the protection of these ecosystems. Furthermore, community involvement and transparency are essential; the voices of residents and local environmental groups should be part of the decision-making process to hold developers accountable and ensure that the highest standards of environmental stewardship are maintained.</p> <p>Protecting wetlands and minimizing pollution at inland ports are not optional—they are essential responsibilities that should be prioritized to safeguard our environment, public health, and the well-being of future generations.</p>

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Senate District 29 Washington County Democrat	Diedra Ritchhart	I don't agree with it at all. It's destroying our public lands, and habitats for our animals.	Any and all pollution is unacceptable. I think all protection is important for our natural resources, and the responsibility should always lie within our federal government. They are doing well in keeping our land grand, and I fully support BLM, NPS, Forestry service, & BIA.