

## Support Legislative Action on Climate Change

### Background

- According to Emma Penrod's [October 28<sup>th</sup> article in the Salt Lake Tribune](#), a recent study shows that 71% of Utahns believe that climate change is real and 64% agree that human activity exacerbates climate change.
- On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, a government report called the [4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment](#) (authored by experts at NASA, NOAA, the Department of Energy and academic scientists) announced that global warming is happening and that humans are the cause.
- According to the [Utah Department of Health](#), health impacts of climate change are already occurring in Utah in the form of higher respiratory illness, asthma, COPD and a rising incidence rate of lung cancer.
- While the U.S. is the only country that has exited the Paris Climate Accord, many states are working on state specific ways to reduce emissions and mitigate state impacts on climate change.
- Utah resident [Regina Pistilli wrote a terrific op-ed in the Salt Lake Tribune on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>](#) urging our state to pursue a positive, solutions-oriented approach to climate using our ingenuity and ability to become a leader in creating stronger, healthier communities

### Talking Points

- Health impacts in Utah are expected to get worse as the climate warms. Particularly respiratory diseases such as asthma, and other breathing issues. As fire seasons worsen, so will our air quality.
- The Pentagon, National Security Agency, intelligence communities and State Department have called climate change a major national security threat and many of these agencies have made climate change a top priority because of those risks.
- Energy policy in Utah should be focused on developing renewables to build up our energy freedom and provide more jobs and tax revenue, particularly in rural areas. Not only is this a good economic strategy for preparing for this future, but will help to reduce our impact on warming in the long run.
- Legislators should be creating policy that reflects the direction and belief of their constituency on climate issues. With polls saying 71% of Utahns believe in climate change and 64% of Utahns believing that humans impact it, this should be a state legislative priority in Utah right now.

### How to advocate for this issue

Write a letter to the editor covering one of these angles:

- A majority of Utahns agree that climate change is a concern. Our elected representatives should represent the people by taking legislative action to acknowledge and mitigate global warming.
- Encourage Utahns to join you in writing to your state legislators asking them to take climate action that supports our health and the economic growth of our state
- Remind readers that the health impacts of climate change are already occurring in Utah in the form of higher respiratory illness, asthma, COPD and a rising incidence rate of lung cancer.
- Encourage Utahns to speak up about the need to address this important global issue through state legislation
- Applaud [Regina Pistilli's Nov 5<sup>th</sup> op-ed](#) about Utah's ability to lead on climate change through positive, solutions-based ideas that are core to Utah's principles

Never written a letter to the editor? That's okay! These letters are only 200 words and take very little time to write. Use [these TIPS](#) to learn how to write a letter that is effective and publishable. If your letter gets published, [send it to us!](#)

Watch for future calls to action on this issue from Action Utah on our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.