Dear Mr. Adams:

We the undersigned are seeking some basic financial information from your agency regarding the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP). It has been over 15 years since the LPP was authorized by the Utah Legislature and the Division of Water Resources has spent ~$36 million studying the project.

After this extensive review it is time to unveil the Pipeline cost to the people of the State of Utah. Although many of us expected that the costs for the Pipeline would be detailed in the Draft Environmental Statement released in early June, we have noticed that no methodology, support, or evidence was provided to back up the LPP cost estimate.

In accordance with the Government Records and Management Act (“GRAMA”), U.C.A. 63-2-204 et seq., we hereby request that you and any other custodian of public records provide any and all correspondence between the Division of Water Resources’ staff and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the construction, operation and maintenance, replacement, or any other cost estimates of the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline, from January 1, 2018 until June 1, 2020. This should include, but not be limited to all reports, emails, letters, memos, meeting minutes, text messages, recordings and addendum materials.

The terms “custodian,” “public records,” “writings,” and “correspondence” are used in this letter as they are defined in the Act. In the event that you or the official custodian of the requested records determines that a particular piece of data or document is not a public record or that inspection and copying need not or may not be allowed under the terms of the GRAMA, please identify the specific data item or document at issue and state in writing the grounds for the decision to deny access for inspection and copying.

Please provide your response within ten business days after receipt of the request or five days if you determine that the request falls within the expedited public interest timeframe pursuant to U.C.A. § 63-204(3)(a). In the event that the custodian finds that the agency does not maintain the particular record please notify us where it may be located as provided by U.C.A. § 63-2-204(3)(a)(i-iii).

It is not our intention to impose an unnecessary administrative burden on your agency. We believe this information will allow for better transparency and serve the greater public interest during this pandemic economy because of the billions of dollars in new taxpayer debt your
agency is proposing and the roughly $36 million of the public’s tax money that has been spent thus far for the proposed Pipeline.

We want to thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. We would be happy to provide any clarification that may be necessary to enable you to provide an accurate and timely response to this very important request, especially given the 90-day public comment period.

Please give me a call if you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Sincerely,

Utah Rivers Council
Zachary Frankel, Executive Director

Alliance for a Better Utah
Chase Thomas, Executive Director

Voices for Utah Children
Matthew Weinstein, Executive Director

Crossroads Urban Center
Glenn Bailey, Executive Director

Utahns Against Hunger
Gina Cornia, Executive Director

Utah Citizens Counsel
David Carrier, Volunteer Staff Coordinator

Action Utah
Andrea Himoff, Executive Director