

# New Bill to Divert Prized Green River Proposed at Utah Legislature

## H.B. 328 is First Step to Diverting Green River Water to the Wasatch Front

Utah Representative Ferry, Brigham City, is running House Bill 328 to divert the Green River to provide water to America's most wasteful water users – Wasatch Front residents. The bill was unveiled on February 13<sup>th</sup> and would provide municipal water for outdoor lawn use in the summer months. The bill studies diverting Green river water through either the Bear River or Weber River to the Wasatch Front.

The waters of the Green River are already flowing to Wasatch residents through the Central Utah Project, a \$3.5 billion endeavor. This new attempt by Rep. Ferry to divert even more water from the Green would be detrimental to the drought-stricken Colorado River Basin as the Green River provides 40% of the Colorado River water at Lake Powell.

Other legislators have continued to sponsor bills that would conserve water as the inexpensive alternatives to large water projects like Bear River Development and Lake Powell Pipeline. However, these have continually been shut down by water lobbyists and the legislators that listen to them in favor of more expensive water sources.

Ironically, last week Rep. Ferry spoke against H.B. 40, a bill sponsored by Rep. Ballard and American Water Works Association, the largest water trade organization in America, that would save 26,000 acre feet of water per year for a mere \$1.5 million. Rep. Ferry also spoke against H.B. 143 during the 2019 General Legislative Session, a bill designed to conserve water by amending the Water Conservation Plan Act. That bill, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Harrison died in the House Natural Resources and Ag Committee, which Rep. Ferry sits on.

**“Opposition to meaningful water conservation bills continues to happen at the statehouse by legislators who push for costly water development projects instead”** said Zachary Frankel, Executive Director of the Utah Rivers Council. **“Water conservation is pennies on the dollar compared to water development. Yet those that hold our future in their hands continue to waste tax payer dollars on unnecessary, expensive, and destructive projects like this new proposal to divert the Green River.”**

Proposed Bear River Development's price tag is \$2.9+ billion and the Lake Powell Pipeline will cost \$2.2 – \$3.2 billion.

**For more information please call 801-486-4776 or 801-699-1856**

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