

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF UTAH

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STANDING COMMITTEES: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND
TECHNOLOGY; POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE: CAPITAL FACILITIES
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
CAPITOL PRESERVATION BOARD

June 7, 2007

The Honorable Jon Huntsman, Jr.
Governor of the State of Utah
E220 State Capitol Complex
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Huntsman:

We would like to reiterate our request that you call a Special Session to address the confusion associated with the ballot referendum on vouchers. (See attached May 8 letter.) The current mess caused by varying interpretations of the effect of two pieces of legislation on vouchers that was not intended by legislators during the General Session is creating a mockery of our democratic processes and costing taxpayers unnecessary legal costs.

In our prior letter to you, we suggested that a Special Session reconcile the contorted interpretation of HB 148 and HB 174. A proposal from Representatives Mel Brown and Kay McIff suggests that HB 174 be repealed until after the referendum vote in November. In the event that the referendum fails, the legislature can then reenact HB 174. This would clear up any confusion about what the voters will be deciding in November. We are sure there are several approaches to addressing the current situation, but it is clear that the State's policy makers (Legislature and Governor) have a responsibility to address this matter.

We strongly encourage you to call a Special Session to accomplish this common sense solution. We urge Republican leadership to support the Brown/McIff proposal so that we may resolve the confusion that the voucher issue has caused.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ralph Becker in black ink.

Ralph Becker
House Minority Leader

Handwritten signature of Mike Dmitrich in black ink.

Mike Dmitrich
Senate Minority Leader

Cc: President John Valentine
Speaker Greg Curtis
Utah Legislators
State Board of Education