Veto Message

S.B. 229:

S.B. 229 would earmark a growing percentage of certain sales tax proceeds for transportation projects. Although I agree that a modern and effective transportation system is vital to Utah’s economic success, I am concerned that S.B. 229’s automatic earmark will translate into decreased ability to fund other budget priorities, such as higher education, human services, and economic development, in future years. The recent past has taught us that economic tides can turn quickly. To maintain our position as the best-managed state in the nation, Utah must be able to react quickly to changed financial circumstances.