



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 24, 2017

The Honorable Greg Hughes
Speaker of the House

and

The Honorable Wayne Niederhauser
President of the Senate

Dear Speaker Hughes and President Niederhauser,

As required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution, I am writing to provide you my objections to House Bill 11, STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AMENDMENTS, and to explain my decision to veto the bill.

As I appoint individuals to boards and commissions, I am sometimes required by statute to consider partisanship in making those appointments. I feel that in most instances, this is contrary to the best interests of the public and public policy. The purpose of this bill was to allow for the appointment of the best and most qualified individuals outside of those partisanship considerations.

However, recognizing that some boards and commissions make decisions that may be viewed as partisan, and wanting to ensure that the public has confidence in their decisions, my office agreed to a negotiated version of this bill. That version of the bill maintained partisan appointments for the Air Quality Board, the Water Quality Board, the Public Service Commission, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. This agreement was reached with my office, the sponsor of the bill, and other concerned parties. However, the version of the bill we agreed upon was then subsequently amended in the Senate and the final version is now inconsistent with the agreement my office made during negotiations. Accordingly, I now feel obligated to veto this bill in its current form. Whether or not the perception is accurate, I believe that public confidence in these select boards and commissions may be increased through symbolic partisan makeup.

My commitment is to always appoint the best, most qualified person for any position and I expect those individuals, thus appointed, to act in the best interest of the state, in the interest of creating good policy.

For these reasons, I disapprove of and veto House Bill 11, STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AMENDMENTS, and return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Gary R. Herbert