



MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 | 1:15 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ann Millner, Chair
Rep. Jon Hawkins, Chair
Sen. Karen Kwan
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Paul A. Cutler
Rep. Doug Fiefia
Rep. Jake Fitisemanu
Rep. Leah Hansen
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Colin W. Jack

Rep. Carol S. Moss
Rep. David Shallenberger
Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Jordan D. Teuscher

Members Absent:

Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Rep. James A. Dunnigan

Staff Present:

Sivan Nizan, Policy Analyst
Rhonda Bailey, Associate General Counsel
Samantha Merrell, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 10.

Yeas - 7

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. C. Jack
Sen. K. Kwan
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. T. Shelley

Nays - 0

Absent - 10

Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. L. Hansen
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. D. Shallenberger
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. J. Teuscher
Sen. E. Vickers

[2 - Study Item Introduction: Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity \(Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel\)](#)

Sivan Nizan, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave an introduction on the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) study item.

2. Mining

[6 - Economic Development and Workforce Services: Mining in Utah \(Utah Mining Association\)](#)

Brian Somers, President and CEO, Utah Mining Association, presented on the mining industry in Utah, the wider regulatory environment regarding mining and energy, and how the state has supported the mining industry through policies, programs, and tax credits.

Brian Somers responded to questions from the committee.

3. Advanced Manufacturing

Johnny Ferry, President and CEO, Utah Manufacturers Association, and Josh Brown, Chief Operating Officer, Utah Manufacturers Association, presented on manufacturing in Utah and GOEO's role in supporting manufacturing in the state.

Johnny Ferry and Josh Brown responded to questions by the committee.

Johnny Ferry and Josh Brown continued presenting.

Johnny Ferry responded to questions from the committee.

4. Aerospace and Defense

[4 - 47G Utah Aerospace and Defense \(47G\)](#)

Aaron Starks, President and CEO, 47G, presented on the history of the aerospace and defense industry, the industry's status in Utah, and how 47G interacts with GOEO to support the industry in Utah.

Aaron Starks responded to a question from the committee.

Aaron Starks continued presenting.

5. Life Sciences and Healthcare

[5 - BioUtah Presentation \(BioUtah\)](#)

Kelvyn Cullimore, President and CEO, BioUtah, presented on the life sciences industry in Utah, key life sciences companies, and how BioUtah partners with GOEO to support the life sciences industry.

Kelvyn Cullimore responded to questions from the committee.

6. Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

[7 - Presentation, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity \(Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity\)](#)

Jefferson Moss, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, presented an overview of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Rep. Leah Hansen introduced herself.

MOTION: Chair Millner moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 9

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. L. Hansen
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. C. Jack
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. D. Shallenberger
Rep. J. Teuscher

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. K. Kwan
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. T. Shelley
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. E. Vickers



Chair Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.