



# DRAFT MINUTES

## SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

Monday, February 9, 2026 | 3:40 p.m. | 215 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Derrin R. Owens, Chair  
Sen. Nate Blouin  
Sen. Keith Grover  
Sen. Scott D. Sandall  
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson  
Sen. Keven J. Stratton

**Members Absent:**

Sen. David P. Hinkins

**Staff Present:**

Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst  
Cassie Sudekum, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Owens called the meeting to order.

Sen. Sandall assumed the chair.

**1. 1st Sub. S.B. 209 Gooseberry Narrows State Park Designation(Owens, D.R.)**

**MOTION:** Sen. Owens moved to replace SB0209S01 with SB0209S02. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

Sen. N. Blouin  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins

Sen. Owens presented the bill with the assistance of Blake Bingham, Deputy State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights, and Scott Strong, Director, Utah Division of State Parks.

Justin Jackson, Member, Board of Trustees, Sanpete Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Herbert Ley, Vice President, Utah Stream Access Coalition, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Wade Garrett, Vice President of Advocacy and Strategic Relationships, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, spoke in favor of the bill.

Wade Eliason, Member, Board of Trustees, Sanpete Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Nate Broadhurst, Attorney, Sanpete Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Michael Larson, Chairman, Sanpete Conservation District, spoke in favor of the bill.

William Butcher, President, Price River Water Users Association, spoke in opposition to the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Owens moved to pass SB0209S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 1  
Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 1  
Sen. D. Hinkins

Chair Owens resumed the chair.

## **2. H.B. 49 Law Enforcement Salary Amendments(*Wilcox, R.*)**

**MOTION:** Sen. Stratton moved to replace HB0049 with HB0049S04. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 2  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Rep. Ryan Wilcox presented the bill with the assistance of Sean Spencer, Utah Conservation Officers Association.

Herbert Ley, Vice President, Utah Stream Access Coalition, spoke in favor of the bill.

David Spatafore, Legislative Liaison, Utah Chiefs of Police Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Brett Stewart, Utah Off-Highway Vehicle Advocates, spoke in favor of the bill.

Matt Anderson, Director, Utah Sportsmen's Caucus, spoke in favor of the bill.

Scott Stephenson, Executive Director, Utah Fraternal Order of Police, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stratton moved to pass HB0049S04 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1  
Sen. D. Hinkins

## **3. S.B. 250 Great Salt Lake Amendments(*Blouin, N.*)**

Sen. Blouin presented the bill.

Adalayde Scott, resident, Millcreek, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sophia Smith, student, University of Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Danielle Knight, resident, Millcreek, spoke in favor of the bill.

Alta Fairbourne, Water Advocate, Utah Rivers Council, spoke in favor of the bill.

Luis Miranda, resident, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Maria Archibald, resident, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Norma Wills, resident, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Nathan Hole, resident, Davis County, spoke in favor of the bill.

Amy Jessee, resident, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Herbert Ley, resident, Millcreek, spoke in favor of the bill.

Hannah Freeze, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, spoke to the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stratton moved to hold SB0250. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 1

Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 1

Sen. D. Hinkins

**4. S.B. 254 Critical Minerals Amendments(*Millner, A.*)**

Sen. Ann Millner presented the bill.

Steve Erickson, Board Member, Great Basin Water Network, spoke to the bill.

Andrew Sandstrom, Executive Director, Unleash Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mick Thomas, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining spoke in favor of the bill.

Ted Sonnenburg, Director, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, spoke in favor of the bill.

Allen Evans, Executive Vice President of Logistics, Utah Inland Port Authority, spoke in favor of the bill.

Brian Somers, President, Utah Mining Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jeff Hartley, Lobbyist, Red Leaf Resources, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mackenzie Miller, resident, Magna, spoke to the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stratton moved to pass SB0254 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 4

Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 1

Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 2

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins

**5. S.C.R. 9 Concurrent Resolution Regarding Critical Minerals Development and Funding(*Millner, A.*)**

Sen. Millner presented the bill.

Andrew Sandstrom, Executive Director, Unleash Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Brian Somers, President, Utah Mining Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Chair Owens moved to pass SCR009 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 1 - 3.

Yeas - 3

Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Nays - 1

Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 3

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. K. Stratton

**MOTION:** Sen. Blouin moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. N. Blouin  
Sen. D. Owens  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. K. Stratton

Chair Owens adjourned the meeting.