



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



This past year hasn't been easy for many families—historic inflation is making everyday life more expensive; the COVID pandemic is approaching its third year; illegal immigration is surging; and the devolution of our critical societal institutions seems to make us more divided than ever. Internationally, Putin's unlawful and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine wages on and the Chinese Communist Party watches the global response closely as they evaluate options with regards to Taiwan.

The United States—and the world—is safest when we stand together with our allies. This year has shown just how vital that is. In the Senate, I supported Ukraine in its effort to defend itself—helping secure emergency aid and the transfer of weapons and air defense systems. In addition, I was proud to support Sweden and Finland's ascension to NATO, a move that will further strengthen this alliance.

China remains our biggest threat as it seeks to become the world's economic, geopolitical, and military superpower. At every level of government, we must remain clear-eyed about the dangers the regime poses as it seeks hegemony. I led legislation that requires the Administration to develop a comprehensive China strategy and to analyze how Russia's Ukraine invasion has impacted China's options regarding Taiwan. Further, I supported bills that promote innovation, foster scientific talent, expand U.S. research, and break our dependence on China for microchips. I also introduced legislation to ensure the United States secures critical mineral resources to enable American industries to be less dependent on China for vital resources.

Utah plays an important role in our national defense, particularly in the modernization of our nuclear deterrent systems. This year, I fought against budget cuts for Dugway Proving Ground to ensure it received necessary funding. I also supported our annual defense bill, which fully funded the F-35 program and provided \$3.6 billion for Sentinel—formerly called the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent—based out of Hill Air Force Base.

Climate change remains a top area of concern for me as drought and water issues have plagued our state this year. I was proud that two of my bills amplifying the work being done by our state legislature and governor to save the Great Salt Lake were signed into law. The Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement was also implemented this year, bringing running water to the 40% of Navajo Nation in Utah who lack it. This Settlement became a reality with last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The infrastructure bill has continued to deliver for Utah, providing funding for vital projects across the state like the Central Utah Water Project, Summit County's transportation systems, and wildfire resilience and fuel management initiatives. My national Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission was also formed this year and two Utahns were selected to serve. I'm hopeful the Commission will develop innovative policies and assets to bolster wildfire resilience and to prevent future wildfires from becoming catastrophic disasters in our state and across the West.

I was proud to see our legislation allowing for the completion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail enacted into law, along with a measure to help bring a passport agency to Salt Lake City. This year, the team in my Utah offices was also able to assist more than 1,600 constituents with casework claims, helping Utahns navigate the federal bureaucracy for passport services, veterans' benefits, and much more. In the new Congress, we will continue to fight for priorities that are critically important to our citizens.

Top of mind for next year is helping alleviate the burden that inflation has placed on so many Utahns. Washington Democrats' excessive spending bills have driven costs of everything from groceries to housing to historic highs. Unfortunately, we add more than a trillion dollars to our national debt each year, which fuels inflation. Two-thirds of all federal spending is mandatory and thus happens without even a vote by Congress. It is essential that we enact legislation to control our mandatory spending. I continue to promote my TRUST Act to do just that. Without reform, either our national debt will continue to balloon or Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will be subject to a reduction in benefits. Neither is acceptable. When Congress returns in January, taming mandatory spending, deficits, and debt must be a high priority.

It is an honor to serve the people of our state. If you have suggestions and counsel for me, please do not hesitate to write or email me at my website. I wish you and your family the very best for a healthy, safe 2023.

2022 POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

UTAH

- Assisted 1,630 Utahns with casework claims.
- Responded to more than 81,000 pieces of constituent mail.
- Met with hundreds of Utahns and Utah businesses throughout the state.
- Working to save the Great Salt Lake:
 - Enacted the [Great Salt Lake Recovery Act](#), legislation to study historic drought conditions and protect the long-term health of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Reps. Stewart, Owens, and Curtis led the companion legislation in the House.
 - Enacted the [Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States Program Act](#), bipartisan legislation to facilitate an integrated regional assessment of saline lake ecosystems and fill a critical data gap that has made it nearly impossible to address a variety of problems caused by declining water levels. Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT) led companion legislation in the House.
 - [Conducted on-site inspections](#) of areas connected to and dependent on the survival the Great Salt Lake with Brad Wilson, Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives. Stops included Bear River inflows, an agricultural site, Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative, and Farmington Bay.
- Enacted the [Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act](#), bicameral legislation introduced with Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) to enable the construction of high priority sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to enhance recreation opportunities near Utah's most urban areas.
- Helped secure funding for the PILT program in FY 2022 through the appropriations process. The Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program makes Utah whole due to lost revenue from federal land ownership, helping fund local services including road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, and emergency medical, in many of the state's rural counties.



Amid historic low water levels, Senator Romney tours the Great Salt Lake by airboat with Brad Wilson (Utah House Speaker) and Joel Ferry (Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources).



Senator Romney meets with employees at Kaddas Enterprises' thermoplastic manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City to discuss challenges facing U.S. manufacturers.

UTAH, CONTINUED

- Enacted the [*Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act*](#), bipartisan legislation introduced by Romney, which would continue protecting four threatened and endangered native fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins by extending conservation programs for one year to allow Upper Basin communities the time to develop a long-term management plan.
- Secured into law a [*measure*](#) to help bring a passport agency to Salt Lake City.
- Secured funding to fulfill [*Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act*](#) to bring running water to the 40% of Navajo Nation in Utah who lack it. The final Settlement was signed on May 27, 2022.
- Helped secure the Goblin Valley land transfer in Emery County. This transfer of 6,300 acres of land from the BLM to Utah State Parks was included in the 2019 bipartisan public lands package.
- [*Urged*](#) USDA to support Utah farmers and ranchers by giving parity to the urgent priorities of Western growers and communities through existing authorities, new funding, and collaboration across government.
- Successfully led a bipartisan effort to protect Industrial Loan Companies (ILCs) in Utah, including preventing passage of a bill to eliminate the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s (FDIC) ILC charter applications.



Senator Romney participates in the signing ceremony for the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement with Interior Secretary Haaland, Governor Cox, and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.



Senator Romney meets with Utah farmers and ranchers to learn about their innovative conservation efforts.

BUDGET & DEBT

- Continued building support for the [*TRUST Act*](#)—bipartisan, bicameral legislation which would create committees in Congress specifically tasked with developing solutions to rescue our major, endangered federal trust funds.
- Introduced the [*Student Loan Accountability Act*](#), legislation to prohibit the Biden Administration from canceling student loan debt—projected to add \$400 billion to the national debt—at the expense of millions of Americans who chose to not go to college or worked to pay off student loans.
- Led Republican colleagues in [*pressing*](#) the White House to provide a full accounting of how the federal government has allocated trillions in taxpayer funds to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and was successful in ensuring that no new COVID-19 money would be authorized until unspent funds were re-purposed.



During a committee hearing on the Biden Administration’s FY 2023 budget, Senator Romney discusses the urgent need to get spending under control.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Established the [Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission](#), made law by passage of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*. Members, including two Utahns, were selected in July and the Commission met for the first time in Salt Lake City in September 2022.
- Welcomed funding announcements awarded to Utah from the bipartisan infrastructure bill:
 - \$25 million in grants from the Department of Transportation for Summit County and Utah Inland Port Authority to help urban and rural communities move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable.
 - \$5.5 million from the Department of Interior to advance wildfire resilience work and support fuels management projects in Utah on 24,490 acres of land across the state.
- [Urged](#) Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to allocate a significant portion of the Department’s recent funding from the infrastructure bill toward sagebrush ecosystem restoration in the American West, which would boost wildfire mitigation efforts, create jobs, and support the regional economy.
- [Demanded](#) Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo follow congressional intent in implementing the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, created by the infrastructure law. These funds supplement the work already being done by the State to extend Utah’s broadband infrastructure and provide more families—especially those in rural areas—with affordable, fast, and reliable internet.



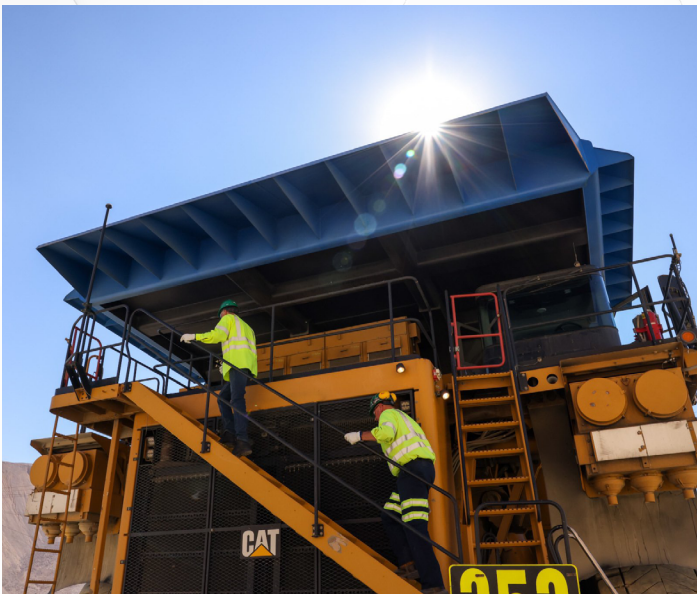
Senator Romney participates in the groundbreaking for High Valley Transit’s first facility project in Summit County, which received funding from the infrastructure bill to help alleviate the traffic impacts of high growth and high tourism.

WORKING FAMILIES

- Introduced the [Family Security Act 2.0](#), an updated version of the *Family Security Act*, with Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Steve Daines (R-MT) to create a new national commitment to American families. The plan would modernize antiquated federal policies into a fully paid-for, cash benefit for working families starting during pregnancy.
- Helped introduce the [Child Tax Credit for Pregnant Moms Act](#), which would allow pregnant moms to claim the Child Tax Credit for their unborn children, building on the provisions included in the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*.
- Helped introduce the [Employee Rights Act of 2022](#), which updates and modernizes the *Employee Rights Act* to protect independent contractors, franchisees, entrepreneurs, and anyone seeking flexible work options.

FOREIGN POLICY & NATIONAL SECURITY

- Bolstered the role Utah plays in our national security—Hill Air Force Base & Dugway Proving Ground:
 - Supported the full authorization and funding of the F-35 program and \$3.6 billion for Sentinel (Ground Based Strategic Deterrent) to modernize our nuclear deterrent in the FY 2022 NDAA.
 - Fought against budget cuts for Dugway to ensure it received necessary funding.
- Countering the Rise of China:
 - Supported and secured into law measures to promote innovation and break U.S. dependence on China for microchips and critical minerals, reduce China’s unfair international advantages, and affirm the U.S. relationship with Taiwan.
- Supporting Ukraine/Countering Russia:
 - Supported critical emergency and military aid to Ukraine.
 - Supported Sweden and Finland’s accession to NATO.
 - Joined colleagues in requesting that the U.S. Ambassador to the UN introduce a resolution to remove Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.
 - Secured into law a measure that directs the Administration to develop a strategy toward the Black Sea region.
- Held the Administration accountable to complete the mandatory, comprehensive reports comparing U.S. military spending with Chinese and Russian military investments required by a provision that Romney secured in the FY 2021 NDAA. This report will help the U.S. understand the actual purchasing power of China and Russia and inform decisions regarding how we should invest in defense capabilities.
- Helped negotiate a reform of the outdated *Electoral Count Act of 1887* to ensure that the electoral votes tallied by Congress accurately reflect each state’s vote for President.



We cannot rely on countries like China for minerals critical to our national security. Senator Romney tours Rio Tinto’s Kennecott copper mine operation in Bingham Canyon as he works to help the U.S. gain critical mineral independence.



Senator Romney meets with officials at Weber County’s Election Office to learn about efforts to ensure our election system is accurate, fair, and unable to be attacked or corrupted.

HEALTH CARE

- Proposed a new data agency, the Center for Public Health Data (CPHD), to improve access to impartial and objective public health data that would bolster our infectious disease intelligence and preparedness. CPHD would aggregate this existing data to make it more accessible in real time.
- Enacted the Medical Countermeasures Surge Capacity Act of 2022, legislation to improve our domestic manufacturing surge capacity and capabilities for biodefense and pandemic preparedness and response.
- Enacted a measure aimed at preventing a future baby formula crisis by requiring HHS to provide notification to Congress within 24 hours of initiating a voluntary or mandatory recall, including an initial estimate of the disruption in the domestic production that could result from their actions, information on the risk to human health, and when the FDA was first made aware of the problem.
- Enacted the Advancing Affordable Medicines for Families Act, bipartisan legislation which would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a report on the impact that nonprofit generic drug companies—like Utah’s Civica Rx—would have on lowering drug costs, addressing drug shortages, and accelerating the development of new drugs.



Senator Romney tours Intermountain’s Precision Genomics facility in St. George to learn more about the HerediGene study—their cutting edge genome mapping that is helping advance the treatment of cancers and other diseases.

EDUCATION

- Introduced the Graduation Reporting for Accuracy and Decision-Making (GRAD) Act, bipartisan legislation that would improve transparency and inform the decision-making of prospective students by ensuring the reporting of graduation rates accurately reflect the success of community colleges.
- Helped pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—legislation to bolster public safety and prevent tragedies before they occur, including through substantial investments in mental health, improved background checks, school safety, and state-led crisis intervention programs.



Senator Romney strolls through Southern Utah University’s campus with President Mindy Benson ahead of her inauguration.



Senator Romney colors a button during Utah Tech University’s Welcome Back BBQ to celebrate the start of the fall semester.