

United States Senator

BOB BENNETT

Utah

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HATCH/BENNETT TRUST LANDS BILL CLEARS SENATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today issued the following statement regarding the passage of the Utah State School Trust Lands Bill sponsored by himself and Senator Orrin Hatch (also R-Utah):

"With the Senate's passage of the school trust lands bill, we are one step closer in our attempts to address Utah's steep educational needs. While our western neighbors have flexibility with their state lands revenues, Utah remains at a disadvantage. This legislation, which will release lands currently trapped within federally managed lands and allow the resulting revenues to be used for educational purposes, will help correct the problem," Senator Bennett said.

Senator Bennett, said Governor Mike Leavitt and key education and environmental groups in Utah endorse the Senate legislation. Rep. Jim Hansen (R-Utah) and Karen Shepherd have sponsored a similar measure in the House of Representatives.

Bennett commended Senator Hatch for his leadership on this issue and early introduction of the bill. "Timing was the downfall of last year's bill. Hopefully, the early passage in the Senate will help avoid the chaos at the end of the session. The school children of Utah deserve its enactment," he said.

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