

## **UITA Public Policy Committee Guidelines**

### **UITA Public Policy Principles**

The Utah Information Technology Association (UITA) supports public policy that strengthens Utah's technology-based economy and positions Utah as a global leader through the development and use of advanced technologies. UITA develops, supports and advocates for policies that promote the long-term growth, success and sustainability of Utah's technology-based economy.

UITA believes that strong, consistent, focused leadership from the private sector, working in collaboration with educational and government partners, is the critical link in driving our state's development and recognition as a global technology leader.

UITA's Executive Committee and Public Policy Committee will:

- Provide LEADERSHIP on issues important to the growth of technology industries and partnerships in Utah;
- Engage in issues that have a positive impact on UITA MEMBERS first;
- Remain NON-PARTISAN in the selection of issues, endorsement of candidates, and execution of strategies for change;
- FOCUS activities on selected issues with the greatest impact on technology and innovation;
- Work toward CREATING a climate for innovation;
- Support SOUND BUDGET AND TAX POLICIES that reinforce technology development and expansion of Utah's knowledge-based economy.

Using these principles, UITA will sponsor, support and/or respond to legislation that furthers the principles outlined below (note positions of support and voting protocol). Additionally, UITA will respond to issues and potential legislation that affect member companies and technology businesses in Utah as they arise.

### **Technology:**

UITA promotes:

- The growth of the Internet through a positive balance between technology and privacy;
- Tax neutrality for the taxation of Internet transactions;
- Accelerating the deployment of broadband services (cable modem, DSL, satellite, wireless);
- Keeping computer crime laws in Utah updated (as it relates to such issues as phishing, sending of viruses, identity theft, etc.);
- Strengthening copyright protection in the Internet environment;
- Strengthening patent protection for technology companies;
- Ensuring opportunities for all kinds of software – proprietary, open source, and mixed solutions.

## **Business Environment:**

UITA supports:

- State investment in initiatives that foster start-up and growth of the high-tech industry as well as policies that promote private investment (e.g., USTAR Economic Development Initiative's industry linkage and job growth);
- Tax policies that allow small, medium and large businesses to cost effectively do business in Utah;
- Tax policies that promote more investment in research and development in Utah;
- Preserving the ability of entrepreneurs to allocate resources globally and cost effectively;
- Programs that will increase access to venture capital;
- Making the R&D tax credit permanent.

## **Education:**

UITA supports:

- Policies that produce graduates with the education, training and skills required to support a vibrant technology-based economy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math emphasis [STEM]);
- Investment for research in higher education that leads to commercialization of technologies in the private sector;
- High standards for all K-12 students and endorses statewide standards, particularly in math, science and technology, to sustain and grow Utah's world-class competitiveness;
- The availability and use of technology in schools.

## **Government:**

UITA supports:

- The creation of a comprehensive statewide technology plan for economic development that lays out a framework for building upon our state's technology strengths;
- Increased government use of technology and services to improve the delivery of services and security to the citizens of Utah and to reduce the overall cost of government. UITA is committed to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for showcasing the possibilities that technology can bring to the government sector; and
- The use of private sector solutions in the use and procurement of technology services and products when it results in better outcomes, such as lower total cost of ownership higher service levels for government.

## **Definitions and Voting Protocol**

UITA Levels of Support:

1. High Priority
2. Support / Endorse
3. Neutral
4. Oppose
5. Actively Oppose

UITA's Executive Committee (EC) will authorize positions of support (especially High Priority and Actively Oppose) to ensure positions are best for the long-term growth of the industry and to minimize polarizing positions. UITA's Public Policy Committee will be a proactive extension of the EC and will provide position recommendations on a timely basis. During the state legislative session, the Public Policy Committee (PP) meets weekly (typically Friday at 3:30 p.m. at the Cottonwood Corporate Center - call for confirmation). Only current (paid) UITA technology members and industry investors may cast a vote in the PP Committee, with one vote per company. Issues will be presented to the PP Committee for a vote only if they have been announced in advance and are included on the UITA Public Policy Committee meeting agenda.