



OFFICE OF THE
UTAH STATE AUDITOR

News Release
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Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases
A Limited Performance Audit of Independent State Entity Transparency

*Review of nine independent state entities' compliance with the state's
Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA).*

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office) today released its report titled: *A Limited Performance Audit of Independent State Entity Transparency*. As a result of serious issues identified at the Utah Communications Authority, the Office assessed entity compliance with reporting requirements for public meeting notices, meeting minutes, meeting recordings, and OPMA training for nine independent entities.

Compliance with OPMA increases transparency and accountability to stakeholders and encourages proper public oversight. Several independent state entities regularly do not comply with aspects of OPMA. The report makes seven recommendations to independent state entities to improve compliance with OPMA to increase transparency and accountability.

The Office recommends that each of these nine independent entities should ensure that they are in complete compliance with OPMA and that entity officials should receive the required training in OPMA compliance each year.

In addition, the Office recommends that the Utah Dairy Commission, which exhibited the most serious disregard for OPMA, should clarify its relationship with the Dairy Council of Utah & Nevada and they should refrain from conducting inaccessible meetings out of state.

The full report may be found on the Office's website, auditor.utah.gov, specifically <http://financialreports.utah.gov/saoreports/2016/PA16-03IndStEntityTransparencyStateofUtah.pdf>.

About the Office of the Utah State Auditor

The Office of the Utah State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program

performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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