



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

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Subject: Utah H.B. 396 now acceptable

To whom it may concern,

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) believes that, when considering paleontological resources, a balance should be struck between local public access, accessibility for researchers, and the preservation and protection of fossils and fossil sites. This is a brief follow-up memo regarding SVP's statement made on February 22, 2023, that opposed the proposed Utah H.B. 396 set to be voted very soon. Since the SVP statement was issued, we are pleased to note that the proposed bill has developed into legislation that adequately meets these objectives while also taking into account input from SVP membership.

SVP would like to thank the Utah Legislature for prioritizing Utah's fossil heritage through Utah H.B. 396, and we look forward to continued collaboration on this important topic in the future. SVP also thanks every individual who took the time to express concerns to SVP regarding the proposed bill or SVP's statement. We also note that SVP will continue to strive to evaluate and respond to emerging matters and concerns that may impact the field of paleontology and its members as needed. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Stuart S. Sumida, Ph.D.

Jessica M. Theodor, Ph.D.

Handwritten signature of Margaret E. Lewis in black ink.

SVP President

Handwritten signature of Stuart S. Sumida in black ink.

SVP Vice President

Handwritten signature of Jessica M. Theodor in black ink.

Past SVP President