Dear Standard Examiner Editor:

Residents and taxpayers in Weber County need to be aware of a huge Inland Port proposed for the western portion of Weber County. The project spans nearly 9,000 acres, borders the meander line of the Great Salt Lake and two critical bird refuges. Nearly 250 concerned residents submitted a letter to Weber County Commissioners regarding their concerns feeling this process has not allowed for a robust public input, yet the Inland Port Authority has placed this project on a fast track and plans to vote on it at their board meeting on May 20th.

Taxpayers are concerned about the massive development, lack of detail in planning documents, and lack of public input. In 2023, the Weber County Commission passed a resolution supporting the creation of a 900-acre port project area. On January 2, the Commission voted to expand the size tenfold to almost 9,000 acres. Critics note that the Commission vote came just four days after public notice went out—on the Friday before New Year’s Eve.

Another concern is the size and scope of the project. This proposed project is nearly 10% of the farm and ranch acreage (94,361) according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. It is larger than Business Depot Ogden by nearly 7500 acres.

Government must especially be accountable when public funds support private development. Creation of UIPA by the legislature in 2018 was extremely contentious. Six years later, critics say that the promised benefits have not materialized. This project area cedes local control and budget authority to a state-appointed board. Various groups across the political spectrum are calling on Weber County to study the full impact, including the budget burden to local taxpayers, attracting heavy truck traffic to an area that does not have it now, bright lighting, lack of protection for existing wetlands, noise, and air quality.

As natives of Ogden and current residents, we urge the Weber County Commission to rescind their approval so these questions can be fully addressed, and the public engaged.

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