



STATE OF UTAH

SPENCER J. COX
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Brad Wilson
Speaker of the House

and

The Honorable Stuart Adams
President of the Senate

Dear Speaker Wilson and President Adams:

This letter serves to inform you that I have vetoed House Bill 98, Local Government Building Regulation Amendments.

Housing affordability in Utah continues to be a serious concern as housing prices outpace wage growth at unsustainable rates. I appreciate the legislature seeking to address this issue with multiple pieces of legislation this year, including H.B. 98. The goal of reducing unnecessary construction costs and delays is laudable and needed. I fully expect Utah's cities and counties to participate in these efforts and streamline their policies and procedures to meet this end for the good of their residents and our state.

After the conclusion of the legislative session, our office and the bill sponsor learned of concerns from FEMA regarding the bill's language and the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These concerns could place 226 of Utah's communities that participate in NFIP at risk of probation or suspension from the program. In light of this additional information, the most prudent path forward requires a redrafting of provisions specific to disaster recovery in the bill.

Utah's Division of Emergency Management is committed to working with the sponsor in the interim to craft language that can still address the core issues related to construction costs and delays while ensuring communities continue to qualify for flood insurance. Please note that I am supportive of this bill and fully anticipate adding it to an upcoming special session once these technical issues are resolved.

For these reasons I have vetoed H.B. 98, LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING REGULATION AMENDMENTS, and returned it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Spencer J. Cox
Governor