

Dear members of the Shelter the Homeless Board and the State Homeless Coordinating Committee:

As community leaders of the neighborhoods along the Jordan River, we express our appreciation for the commitment you continue to show to find better solutions for homelessness in our state. We applaud state and local leaders who have sought improvements to the tools we provide our homeless population to help them get back on their feet, while being responsive to the impacts of homelessness on our businesses, neighborhoods, and community as a whole.

As the new process moves forward, establishing a new resource center along the Jordan River Parkway in South Salt Lake, we encourage a continued thoughtful approach for how best to mitigate impacts to surrounding neighborhoods while providing more effective homeless services. This is particularly important along the Jordan River Parkway.

Since 1971, cities and the county have put extensive effort and funding toward enhancing and preserving the Jordan River Parkway as an inviting recreational greenway, an economic development driver, and a healthy riparian ecosystem. It is an integral component of our communities, an extension of our backyards, and an actively used transportation alternative. In short - it is a gem of open space in the heart of Salt Lake County.

We have invested more than \$22 million in the trail in the past seven years alone, creating a 45-mile trail. It extends from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake, providing countless families safe and healthy outdoor recreation close to home. Trail users take their families and young children on walks to enjoy the natural beauty, recreation enthusiasts use the trail for exercise and even commuting, and a multitude of plant and animal life thrives in this protected natural environment.

With such extensive financial investment spanning more than 40 years, and such a beautiful piece of open space for our residents, we all recognize the need to continue to preserve this investment. We are committed to finding better solutions to empower our homeless residents to overcome a challenging circumstance. We are equally committed to preserving community resources that may be impacted.

We believe that a high-risk homeless population abutting the Jordan River Parkway trail could impact trail users, or make the public more afraid to use the trail in this area. Our goal has been to increase safety and help residents feel more comfortable walking and biking on the trail. This new resource center has the potential to drastically impact our goals for the parkway. We would request that you designate a lower risk population(s) at this particular shelter since it is the only shelter directly abutting designated open space for public use. If the homeless resource center was located next to Bonneville Shoreline Trail or Dimple Dell Trail, surely the public would expect a thorough dialogue about the best population to house there. We look forward to participating in that discussion as it relates to the Jordan River Parkway.

In Utah, we take care of our people and we take care of our investments. We believe we can do both with great success, if we have a thoughtful conversation about the population best suited to become new neighbors with this great regional asset, and the best mitigation to protect it for future generations.

Sincerely,

(Signed by state, county and city elected officials)