

Powered Land Legislation: Securing Utah's Industrial Power Future

2025 Utah General Legislative Session — Ongoing

The Issue: Utah's rapid growth in advanced manufacturing, data infrastructure, and other large-scale industrial development was outpacing the traditional utility service process. Large-load customers faced power delivery timelines that didn't align with business timelines, and the state was losing real projects to competing states offering faster, more flexible power procurement options. Site-selection data compiled by industry showed 16 projects lost or dropped in Utah due to power constraints, representing roughly 4,975 jobs and \$4.95 billion in capital investment, alongside 17 ongoing or future-need projects representing 3,010 to 5,160 megawatts of aggregate demand — with the true scope likely larger, since most site-selection activity never becomes public.

CREDA's Role: CREDA Utah advocated for Senate Bill 132 (Electric Utility Amendments) during the 2025 General Session, partnering with the Utah Manufacturing Association to bring a unified voice from both the commercial real estate and manufacturing sectors. Following passage, CREDA has continued to engage with the Utah Public Service Commission on the rulemaking process (Docket No. 25-R318-01), filing comments on Rocky Mountain Power's proposed implementing rules to ensure the rules reflect the Legislature's intent — pressing for informational-only notice requirements for closed private generation systems, safety-and-reliability-only review for connected systems, and removal of utility gatekeeping that could slow independent project development. In parallel, CREDA has worked directly with legislative leaders, including compiling and presenting original industry data on lost and at-risk projects to make the case that power availability has become a front-line economic competitiveness issue, on par with workforce, tax policy, and infrastructure.

The Outcome: SB 132 passed in the 2025 General Session, creating a new legal framework for large-scale electric service — including large-scale service requests, large load contracts, and closed private generation and connected generation systems — giving large-load customers new pathways to secure power beyond the traditional utility-only model. This work continues: CREDA is actively engaged in the Public Service Commission's rulemaking process to keep implementation aligned with legislative intent, and continues to work with legislative leaders to advance a long-term statewide power strategy.

Why It Matters: This effort establishes power availability as core economic development infrastructure, alongside roads, water, and land. It also demonstrates CREDA's ability to build coalitions beyond its own membership, partnering with the Utah Manufacturing Association, and to engage effectively across the Legislature, the Public Service Commission, and the executive branch to protect and expand Utah's economic competitiveness.