



UTAH CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Utah Chiefs of Police Association and its president, Chief Tom Ross, I am writing to convey strong opposition to HB22 "Procedural Reforms" dealing with Utah's forfeiture provisions. The Association agrees with, endorses, and reiterates the sentiments expressed by our colleagues from the Utah County Law Enforcement Executives Association (see attached letter).

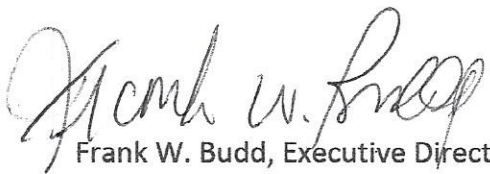
Utah's current forfeiture laws (Utah Code Title 24 Chapter 4), in place since 2014, do protect private citizen property rights. Former concerns about the possibility of police or prosecutorial abuse have been addressed and, since 2014, there have been no documented examples of "policing for profit".

All forfeited properties are now sent to the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, which oversees the spending of the property. The Commission then uses the generated funds for such purposes as assisting drug courts and the treatment of victims of drug trade, grants to the Crime Victims fund, drug treatment, and other efforts to address the harm drug dealers inflict on Utah citizens.

Current forfeiture laws attempt to take the profit away from those who make sales and distribution of drugs available. As emphasized in the Utah County Law Enforcement Executives Association letter, current proposed legislation will only help those who violate the law, and will do nothing to support efforts to disrupt drug trafficking within the state. Those who willfully and intentionally break the law should not be allowed to keep the profits from such violations. Since the motivation for the production, distribution and sales of illicit drugs is monetary gain, forfeiture laws help reduce that motivation.

We ask that you vote No on HB 22.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important issue.


Frank W. Budd, Executive Director
Utah Chiefs of Police Association