

# Making Your Voice Heard

Public participation is essential to developing more effective rules and regulations. The Department of Environmental Quality depends on it. When drafting a rule, DEQ scientists do their best to base it on science and the law. They reach out to experts, but they also still count on the public and others to identify flaws and offer solutions to reach a better outcome:

## KEYS TO AN EFFECTIVE COMMENT



### Point Out Unintended Consequences

Unintended consequences can result in unfavorable changes and new kinds of errors. Sometimes these effects will only come to light through thoughtful feedback from the public.



### Show Up With Technical Expertise

Industrial commenters are able to provide industry specific analytical information that is beyond DEQ's expertise, thereby helping to refine the rules.



### Point To A Solution, Rather Than Just The Problem

Although helpful to explain why a rule doesn't work, it is more helpful to suggest alternatives and substitute language for the requested change.

## READY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

The Department of Environmental Quality and its divisions and boards are committed to using the public notice and comment process to improve the decisions they make. If you have additional questions about public notice and comment for a specific proposal, please contact DEQ at (800) 458-0145 or visit our website at [DEQ.Utah.Gov](http://DEQ.Utah.Gov).

## COMMON COMMENT MISTAKES



### The Comment Process Is Not A Vote

One well-supported comment is often more informative than a hundred emails, or form letters, that raise the same point. DEQ will not respond to each one but will make note they have received the same comment multiple times.



### Comments NOT Specific To The Proposal

Read and understand the proposal you are commenting on. Make sure the comment is relevant to the issue at hand and doesn't address other, albeit important, issues.



### Comments Beyond The Authority Of The Board

You may have a great suggestion for improving Utah's air, but it may require Legislature or Governor approval. Understanding the regulatory authority can help support your claims.



### Questions Are Not Considered Comments

Questions are welcomed. And if you have one, give the contact person a call. DEQ includes contact information for its rule experts on the public comment page. Often getting a better clarification on a question will help someone better formulate a helpful comment.