

five years of

Quality Growth

in Utah

*State of Quality Growth
Report to the 2004 Legislature*

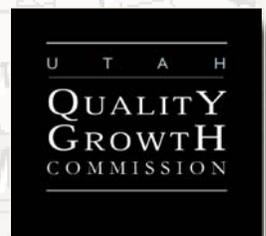
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

New Leadership for the Commission: In June 2003, I was honored to be elected Chair of the Utah Quality Growth Commission. At the same time, Summit County Commissioner Shauna Kerr was elected the new Vice-chair.



Appreciation for Past Chair and Vice-chair: I have served on the Quality Growth Commission since its inception over five years ago. It has been an enlightening and productive experience under the leadership of the first chair, Provo City Mayor Lewis Billings. The previous Vice-chair, David Allen, played the leading role in implementing the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund authorized by the legislature. Both former officers continue to serve as members of the Quality Growth Commission. We owe much to the leadership of Lewis Billings and David Allen. They have our profound gratitude for their service, and leadership. In addition, they have laid the solid foundation on which the next major state landmark in Quality Growth is founded. As you will see in this five-year report on the State of Quality Growth, there have been many accomplishments during the tenure of Lewis Billings and David Allen.

Progress toward Quality Growth: The Legislature asked the Commission to review progress *statewide* on accomplishing the purposes of the Quality Growth Act and to report their findings to the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee by November 30 of the year of the review beginning in 2002. The Commission interprets the statutory language broadly. The accomplishments of the Commission are only part of the story. Other entities have worked toward the same goals. This report includes a sampling of indicators that are intended to illustrate the state of quality growth in Utah.

Implementing Quality Growth Communities: I am taking the Chairmanship of the QGC at a very exciting time. The Commission is launching its newest initiative in fulfillment of the greatest charge it received from the Legislature – implementing Priority in State Funding for Quality Growth Communities. The implementation of this program couldn't come at a better time, with the current economic slump and tight government budgets. The QG Communities program will promote planning that leads to more efficient government expenditures for infrastructure, economic development, and preservation of quality of life – *Creating our best tomorrow today!*

In closing, I want to thank all of the members of the Commission, present and past, who have devoted their time and energy to the important issues of growth in Utah. I also want to thank Governor Leavitt, the State Legislature and the staff of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for their support and advice. We have begun the work for quality growth. We've begun to change the context and concepts, but the problems have not gone away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Lofgren'.

Dan Lofgren
Quality Growth Commission, Chair

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