

UTAH STATE SENATE

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To the participants of the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference

Dear friends,

I am sorry that I am not able to be with you at this conference. As President of the National Conference of State Legislatures, this week, I am leading a legislative delegation meeting with various government officials in Germany. Last week, I returned from Turkey where we had the opportunity to meet with many leaders throughout their country. On this trip, our delegation included several remarkable women from various states. We met with various government officials and discussed not only the issues facing their country but also the impact that women are having on business, community and government throughout Turkey.

As you are aware, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah Rebecca Lockhart was one of the best examples of the importance of women in leadership. Her passion was to establish equal opportunity for all regardless of gender. As a proven leader, she was instrumental in getting legislation passed through the House and Senate that established the Utah Women in the Economy Commission. As the Senate Sponsor of this legislation, I was honored to assist her in her important work. While much has been done to further the cause of equal opportunity for women, not only in Utah, but throughout the world, it is more of a journey than a destination and will require unwavering vigilance and dedication to the cause. That is why events like this are both critical and effective in providing a better understanding of the role of women in promoting economic interests and pursuing sustainable economic development in mountain countries throughout the world.

I also commend leadership from UVU students in hosting this important for all of us international Women of the Mountains conference.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Bramble", with a long, sweeping underline.

Curt Bramble