

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4404

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The 4<sup>th</sup> International Women of the Mountains Conference,

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to Utah and the incredible campus of Utah Valley University! I warmly greet the organizers and participants of the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference (WOMC). I believe the solution to every problem begins when someone says, "Let's talk." Your dialogue and discussion on how topics such as health, education, family values, economics, climate, human trafficking and leadership impact women and children is critical to addressing the challenges of our time.

Utah today has one of the most dynamic and successful economies in the United States. I often refer to the "Utah Model" which creates upward mobility for the poor and real opportunity for women and children. The success of sustainable mountain development in Utah is due to the role played by our women and traditions based on family values. In Utah freedom doesn't mean you are on your own – In Utah freedom means we are all in this together. It is our pleasure to share with other communities throughout the world our experiences and successes to enable not just the Rocky Mountains to flourish, but the mountainous nations across the globe as well.

I commend Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) for being able to host for the first time 2015 WOMC at UVU campus during October 7-9, 2015. In doing so, it continues to allow Utah to play center stage in North America as the forum to advocate the principles and policies which create real opportunities for women everywhere. This event also provides students a great opportunity for personal and professional skills development.

Please take time to experience all that Utah has to offer, from our stunning mountains and landscapes to our vibrant communities. Above all, I hope you will experience our people – engage them in meaningful dialogue and you will both end up on higher ground. I love the saying of the Scottish highlands – Thee lift me and I'll lift thee and together we'll ascend. We are excited that you have chosen to visit our wonderful state, and I wish you all the best in your great conference.

Sincerely,



Mike Lee  
US Senator, Utah