

**JOINT RESOLUTION ON ENERGY POLICY**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Michael E. Noel**

Senate Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution urges that Utah withdraw from the Western Climate Initiative.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the Governor to withdraw Utah from the Western Climate Initiative.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, Utah's location and natural resources are an economic advantage and catalyst for economic growth and opportunity for Utah's citizens through abundant and affordable power, providing the seventh lowest electric rates in the nation;

WHEREAS, the nation's coal fired power plants provide for half of the United States' electricity demand, and power generated from Utah's abundant and clean burning coal provides for nearly 90% of the state's power needs;

WHEREAS, participation in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) requires Utah, through public policy, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions without legislative consultation or public input;

WHEREAS, there has been no balanced and unbiased economic analysis of the costs associated with carbon reduction mandates, the economic impacts of participation in a regional



28 cap and trade program, and the consequential effect of the increased costs of doing business in  
29 Utah;

30 WHEREAS, the credibility of global climate science, data, and modeling that cannot  
31 explain declining temperatures over the last decade, coupled with indications that the  
32 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has incorporated flawed science to push  
33 policymakers, requires reevaluation of the "consensus" and full scientific scrutiny of the  
34 claims;

35 WHEREAS, forcing business, industry, and food producers to reduce carbon emissions  
36 through government mandates and cap and trade policies will increase the cost of doing  
37 business, push companies to do business with lower cost states or nations, and increase  
38 consumer costs for electricity, fuel, and food;

39 WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office warns that the cost of cap and trade  
40 policies under consideration for the WCI, and nationally, will be borne by consumers and will  
41 place a disproportionately high burden on poorer households;

42 WHEREAS, there are growing scientific concerns that simply implementing carbon  
43 reduction in Utah, the United States, or in the developed world will not have a significant  
44 impact while countries like China, Russia, Mexico, and India are greatly expanding their  
45 carbon footprints;

46 WHEREAS, carbon capture and sequestration are new technologies not yet proven, not  
47 yet commercially demonstrated, and facing legal and regulatory challenges;

48 WHEREAS, if all nations globally met a Kyoto-style carbon dioxide reduction, climate  
49 temperature would be reduced only 0.07 of a degree by 2050, and tremendous economic  
50 growth would be sacrificed for very little global warming gain; and

51 WHEREAS, no state or nation has enhanced economic opportunities for its citizens or  
52 increased Gross Domestic Product through cap and trade or other radical carbon reduction  
53 policies:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
55 urges the Governor to withdraw Utah from the WCI.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor  
57 Herbert, the WCI, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change, the  
58 International Panel on Climate Change, the United States Environmental Protection Agency,

59 the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and to the members of Utah's congressional  
60 delegation.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of **9-29-09 9:29 AM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.J.R. 21 - Joint Resolution on Energy Policy**

**Fiscal Note**

2010 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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