

Representative Scott H. Chew proposes the following substitute bill:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING PUBLIC LANDS

INITIATIVE

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

House Sponsor: Scott H. Chew

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for the Public Lands Initiative and for locally driven land use planning over unilateral federal action regarding Utah's public lands.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ expresses support to counties in Utah that choose to participate in the Public Lands Initiative;
 - ▶ expresses the Legislature's commitment to the ideals of local control, local ownership, and local lands management;
 - ▶ expresses the Legislature's preference for locally driven land use planning over the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of 1906;
 - ▶ expresses support for the efforts of Utah's congressional delegation and participating counties in Utah to bring some resolution to the long-standing public land disputes;
- and
- ▶ encourages the ongoing Public Lands Initiative.

Special Clauses:



26 None

27

28 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

29 WHEREAS, perpetual land management, land use, and access disputes on public lands
30 in the state reduce economic development opportunities in local communities and impede
31 successful management of lands and resources;

32 WHEREAS, resolving perpetual land management, land use, and access disputes would
33 bring regulatory certainty to local governments, spur economic development, and improve
34 land, wildlife, air, water, forest, and range health;

35 WHEREAS, the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), an effort spearheaded by Utah's
36 congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, Native American tribes, non-governmental
37 organizations, and various Utah counties, is intended to bring resolution to perpetual land
38 management, land use, and access disputes and create some regulatory certainty for the citizens
39 in Utah's public lands counties;

40 WHEREAS, PLI has the potential to boost mineral production, create jobs and
41 economic growth, diminish the federal footprint in local communities, protect livestock
42 grazing, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and increase state and local management
43 of lands and resources;

44 WHEREAS, PLI provides an opportunity to relocate captured school trust parcels into
45 more accessible, energy-rich areas of the state that could provide a higher return for Utah's
46 schoolchildren;

47 WHEREAS, PLI is complementary to Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act, as both
48 efforts are designed to bring greater local control, local ownership, and public lands
49 management to local communities;

50 WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation assures the Legislature that nothing in the
51 PLI will prejudice the Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act;

52 WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation assures the Legislature that the PLI is a
53 critical first step in Utah's ongoing efforts to secure the transfer of public lands to the state in
54 accordance with the Utah Transfer of Public Lands Act;

55 WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, and the
56 Legislature are committed to empowering local elected officials and garnering support from

57 those closest to the land as part of PLI;

58 WHEREAS, several locations in Utah have been listed on United States Department of
59 the Interior national monument planning documents;

60 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor prefer locally driven land use planning
61 over the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

62 WHEREAS, unilateral executive actions in any Utah county would impede locally
63 driven planning efforts and likely stifle future public land management progress:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
65 Governor concurring therein, expresses support to counties in Utah that choose to participate in
66 the Public Lands Initiative.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their
68 commitment to the ideals of local control, local ownership, and local lands management and
69 the belief that the Public Lands Initiative would strengthen these ideals.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their
71 preference for locally driven land use planning over the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of
72 1906.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express support
74 for the efforts of Utah's congressional delegation and Utah's participating counties to bring
75 some resolution to long-standing public land disputes and encourage the Public Lands Initiative
76 as a step in furtherance of Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of
78 the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Utah
79 Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Governor's Office of
80 Economic Development, the Utah Chamber of Commerce, the Native American Tribes
81 participating in the Public Lands Initiative, and the members of Utah's congressional
82 delegation.