

1                    **Joint Resolution Regarding Utah's Share of Colorado River Water**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Casey Snider**

Senate Sponsor:

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5        This resolution addresses usage of allotted shares of Colorado River water.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7        This resolution:

- 8        ▶ outlines the historical interstate compact regarding the Colorado River;
- 9        ▶ highlights the significance of the Colorado River water allocated to Utah; and
- 10       ▶ declares that it is the position of the state of Utah that any basin state should be able to
- 11 use the state's Colorado River allocation at any location within the geographic
- 12 boundaries of that state.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14        None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16        None

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

19        WHEREAS, the Colorado River spans over 246,000 miles and crosses Arizona, California,  
20 Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming (basin states);

21        WHEREAS, the Colorado River basin is a critical water source in the Western United  
22 States and supplies water to over 40 million people in the United States and Mexico, irrigates  
23 nearly 5.5 million acres of land, and is a water source for 30 federally recognized American  
24 Indian Tribes;

25        WHEREAS, Colorado River water apportionments were determined in the 1922 Colorado  
26 River Compact (1922 Compact);

27        WHEREAS, the 1922 Compact divided the Colorado River basin into an Upper and Lower  
28 Basin;

29        WHEREAS, the 1922 Compact allocates the exclusive consumptive use of 7.5 million  
30 acre-feet of water annually to each basin;

31 WHEREAS, the 1922 Compact has been interpreted to preclude use of Upper Basin water  
32 in the Lower Basin;

33 WHEREAS, Utah has lands in both the Upper and Lower Basins;

34 WHEREAS, the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact allocates a fixed percentage of  
35 the Colorado River supply available to the Upper Basin states in any given year;

36 WHEREAS, other states have made recent efforts to use a portion of their Upper Basin  
37 allocation under the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact;

38 WHEREAS, Utah is allocated approximately 23% of the Upper Basin share of Colorado  
39 River water;

40 WHEREAS, 27% of all water used in Utah is sourced from the Colorado River;

41 WHEREAS, Utah uses this water for a variety of purposes, including agricultural,  
42 industrial, and domestic uses;

43 WHEREAS, Utah has demonstrated Utah's commitment to living within its allocation amid  
44 significant development and population growth; and

45 WHEREAS, as a sovereign state, Utah should have the opportunity to use Utah's water  
46 where the water is needed, so long as it is within the state:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah declares  
48 that it is the position of the state of Utah that notwithstanding the provisions of the 1922 and  
49 1948 compacts, any basin state should be able to use the state's Colorado River allocation at  
50 any location within the geographic boundaries of that state.