

Casey Snider proposes the following substitute bill:

**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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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

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

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, the Colorado River flows for approximately 1,450 miles and provides water to Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona, California, and Nevada (basin states) and Mexico;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 WHEREAS, an estimated 60% of Utah residents rely on the Colorado River for their water  
41 needs;

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

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

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

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