

HCR009S01 compared with HCR009

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HCR009 but was omitted in HCR009S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HCR009 but was inserted into HCR009S01

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

1 **Concurrent Resolution Addressing the ~~{National Debt}~~ Great Salt Lake**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This resolution urges ~~{Congress to resolve the national debt}~~ federal assistance in stabilizing and
6 restoring the Great Salt Lake.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This resolution:

- 8 ▶ ~~{discusses the ongoing and cumulative rise of the national debt;}~~
- 9 ▶ ~~{highlights}~~ discusses the ~~{adverse impacts on}~~ importance of the Great Salt Lake to Utah's
10 economy and ~~{national security arising from the national debt, both now}~~ residents and ~~{in}~~ explains
11 the ~~{future}~~ lake's decline;
- 12 ▶ ~~{recognizes the national debt as a threat to}~~ addresses Utah's efforts in restoring the ~~{prosperity~~
13 ~~of our nation}~~ Great Salt Lake; and
- 14 ▶ urges ~~{Congress}~~ the federal government to ~~{take action towards balancing}~~ provide assistance
15 in stabilizing and restoring the ~~{federal budget}~~ Great Salt Lake.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

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15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17

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

19

WHEREAS, as of January 2026, the outstanding public debt of the United States totaled \$38.4 trillion, with the national debt equaling 124% of gross domestic product and the debt owed per citizen \$115,134;

WHEREAS, approximately \$9.36 trillion of the national debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including \$683 billion owned by individuals in China;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, the United States had a deficit totaling \$1.8 trillion after Congress failed to pass a balanced budget and federal tax receipts totaled \$5.2 trillion, short of the federal outlays totaling \$7 trillion;

WHEREAS, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees projects the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2033, and the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2036;

WHEREAS, ~~{improvements-}~~ the Great Salt Lake is the largest lake in the ~~{business climate-}~~ West, the largest saline lake in ~~{populous countries and aging-}~~ the

populations around the world are likely to contribute to higher global interest rates, which will curtail all U.S. policy priorities, including defense and foreign policy;

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2011, Michael Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned that the single biggest threat to our national security is the national debt;

Western Hemisphere, and one of America's most important natural resources;

WHEREAS, ~~{on March 6, 2018, Dan Coats, former Director of National Intelligence}~~ the Great Salt Lake is a vital source of critical minerals for American industry,

cautioned that the federal government's steep plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a ~~{dire future threat to our economy and-}~~ national security, and energy; ~~{and}~~

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake supports more than 10 million migratory birds annually, as well as the production of 10 million metric tons of seafood;

WHEREAS, the federal government has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure near the Great Salt Lake, including investments in the Hill Air Force Base, a federal prison, federal

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buildings home to the federal judiciary and federal agencies, federal interstates, highways, and the Salt Lake City International Airport;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake has lost more than half of its area and water volume, with years of drought, population growth, and other increasing demands on the lake's tributaries threatening to drive the Great Salt Lake to a new record low this year or next;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake's decline, if not reversed, threatens the homes and businesses of millions of citizens along with trillions of dollars invested in Utah's infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the dust blown off one thousand square miles of the Great Salt Lake's dried lakebed melts mountain snow and exposes Utahns and those in surrounding states to dangerous air pollutants;

WHEREAS, while no saline lake has been restored once it has begun to decline, Utah is determined to make the Great Salt Lake the first such success story;

WHEREAS, Utah has undertaken significant efforts to conserve water, modernize water policy, invest in restoration initiatives, and increase inflows to the Great Salt Lake;

WHEREAS, Utah's philanthropy and business leaders have pledged \$200 million of private investment in the Great Salt Lake's restoration, with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donating tens of thousands of acre-feet of water to the lake in perpetuity;

WHEREAS, with Utah hosting the {~~last federal budget surplus occurring in 2001~~} 2034 Winter Olympic Games, {~~the continued rise~~} Utah's efforts in restoring the Great Salt Lake will be seen by the world;

WHEREAS, despite Utah's efforts, experts estimate that saving the Great Salt Lake will cost the state between \$2-\$10 billion;

WHEREAS, there is strong precedent for federal-state partnerships and investment in Western water projects, including Bureau of Reclamation projects and cost-sharing for major restoration projects in the Colorado River Basin, that provide an established model and authority for federal assistance in restoring the Great Salt Lake;

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2026, President Donald J. Trump publicly recognized the rescue of the Great Salt Lake as an urgent national priority and described the lake's decline as an environmental hazard that must be addressed immediately;

WHEREAS, Utah welcomes the President's recognition and assistance and stands ready to

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partner with the federal government and regional states to restore the Great Salt Lake; and
WHEREAS, the rescue of the lake will stimulate American innovation in technology,

~~{ national debt is a major concern across Utah }~~ agriculture, and ~~{ around }~~ water infrastructure,
benefiting the country:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
Governor concurring therein, ~~{ recognizes that }~~ urges the ~~{ national debt constitutes a threat }~~
President, Congress, and federal agencies to ~~{ the }~~ provide

national security of the United States and urges Congress to commit to establishing an
effective regular order for budgeting.

substantial and timely assistance dedicated to stabilizing and restoring the Great Salt Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature ~~{ directs }~~ emphasizes that ~~{ copies of this
concurrent }~~ federal assistance be

structured to supplement, rather than supplant, the state's initiatives, prioritize voluntary and
market-based solutions, respect state water law and local decision making, and focus on
protecting jobs, property values, national security interests, public health, integrity of our
wildlife, and critical federal investments in Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms Utah's commitment to
partnership with President Trump and other federal leaders, along with leaders from Utah's
local governments and Utah's business, philanthropy, and religious communities, to restore the
Great Salt Lake ahead of the 2034 Winter Olympics and to preserve it for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the
~~{ resolution be sent to }~~ United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States
Senate, the Speaker and

~~{ and }~~ Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Utah's
congressional delegation.

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