

# HCR009S03 compared with HCR009

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HCR009 but was omitted in HCR009S03

inserted text shows text that was not in HCR009 but was inserted into HCR009S03

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

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison**

Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall



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;
- 11        ▶ ~~{recognizes the national debt as a threat to}~~ addresses Utah's efforts in restoring the ~~{prosperity~~  
12 ~~of our nation}~~ Great Salt Lake; and
- 12        ▶ urges ~~{Congress}~~ the federal government to ~~{take action towards balancing}~~ provide assistance  
13 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 }~~ Great Salt Lake is the largest lake in the Western United States ~~{ totaled }~~, the largest

\$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;

saline lake in the Western Hemisphere, and one of America's most important natural resources;

WHEREAS, the ~~{ Social Security and Medicare Boards }~~ Great Salt Lake is a vital source of ~~{ Trustees projects the Old-Age and }~~ critical minerals for U.S. industry,

Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2033, and the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to be depleted in 2036;

WHEREAS, improvements in the business climate in populous countries and aging 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;

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2018, Dan Coats, former Director of National Intelligence, 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, fertilizer extracted from the Great Salt Lake supports farmers across the country;

WHEREAS, brine shrimp from the Great Salt Lake support the production of 10 million metric tons of seafood annually;

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WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake sustains more than 10 million migratory birds that make their way to every state in the nation and to every country in the Western Hemisphere;

WHEREAS, { ~~with the last~~ } the federal { ~~budget surplus occurring in 2001, the continued rise~~ } and state government have invested billions of dollars in

infrastructure near the Great Salt Lake, including investments in the Hill Air Force Base, a federal prison, federal buildings home to the federal judiciary and federal agencies, federal interstates, highways, the international airport, and other critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake has lost more than half of its area and water volume, with unsustainable water diversion, climate change, population growth, and other increasing demands on the lake's tributaries threatening to drive the Great Salt Lake to record lows;

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 the region's infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the dust blown off the dried lakebed may contribute to melting mountain snow and may potentially expose Utahns and those in surrounding states to dangerous air pollutants;

WHEREAS, Utah will represent the nation when hosting the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

WHEREAS, Utah is determined to make the Great Salt Lake a restoration success story;

WHEREAS, due to its resolve, Utah has undertaken significant efforts to conserve water, modernize water policy, invest in restoration initiatives, and increase inflows to the Great Salt Lake, but continues to fall short of success;

WHEREAS, Utah's philanthropic and business leaders have pledged \$200 million of private investment in the Great Salt Lake's restoration;

WHEREAS, along with other water acquisitions, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is donating tens of thousands of acre-feet of water to the lake in perpetuity;

WHEREAS, restoring the Great Salt Lake may cost the state a significant investment of state and federal dollars and will require sacrifice from the agricultural industry that uses two-thirds of the depleted water in the basin;

WHEREAS, the rescue of the Great Salt Lake will stimulate American innovation in technology, agriculture, and water infrastructure, benefiting the nation;

WHEREAS, there is strong precedent for federal-state partnerships and investment in

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Western water projects, including Bureau of Reclamation projects and cost-sharing for major ~~{national debt is a major concern across Utah and around }~~ restoration projects across the country ~~{:}~~ , that provide an established model for federal assistance

in restoring the Great Salt Lake; and

WHEREAS, multiple U.S. administrations have recognized the urgency of saving the Great Salt Lake and committed funding to restore the lake to a healthy level for the longterm:

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature asks the federal government to work with Utah to find a local solution that works for the people of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the federal government to negotiate with Utah a federal-state memorandum of understanding with cost-sharing commitments and timelines, including a 2034 milestone, for the Great Salt Lake's recovery.

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

regulation is necessary to address the massive costs incurred by prioritizing industry over public health in the management of the Great Salt Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms Utah's commitment to partnership with 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 Olympics and to preserve the lake for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages Utah's congressional delegation to pursue authorizing legislation and appropriations to implement the above, including expedited emergency funding and the acceptance and allocation of funds necessary to restore the Great Salt Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the

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~~{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, and appropriate federal executive branch agencies.

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