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WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake is the largest lake in the Western United States, the largest saline lake in the Western Hemisphere, and one of America's most important natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake is a vital source of critical minerals for U.S. industry, national security, and energy;

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;

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, the federal 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 ~~{years of drought}~~ unsustainable water diversion, climate change, population growth, and other increasing ~~{demands on the lake's tributaries}~~

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

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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 Western water projects, including Bureau of Reclamation projects and cost-sharing for major restoration projects across the country, that provide an established model for federal assistance in restoring the Great Salt Lake;and

WHEREAS, {on February 21, 2026, President Donald J. Trump publicly} multiple U.S. administrations have recognized the urgency of saving the Great 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, President Trump expressed his willingness to support Utah in saving the lake and making the Great Salt Lake Great Again; and

WHEREAS, Utah praises the President's recognition and assistance and stands ready to {partner with the federal government} Salt Lake and {regional states} committed funding to restore the {Great Salt Lake} 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, urges the President, Congress, and federal executive branch 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 emphasizes that federal assistance {be} and

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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 regulation is necessary to address the massive costs incurred by prioritizing industry over ~~{protecting jobs, property values, national security interests,}~~ public health~~{, integrity of our}~~ in the management of the Great Salt Lake.

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

~~{local governments and Utah's}~~ business, philanthropy, and religious communities, to restore the Great Salt Lake ahead of 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 United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Utah's congressional delegation, and appropriate federal executive branch agencies.

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