

Nate Blouin proposes the following substitute bill:

**Concurrent Resolution Addressing the Great Salt Lake**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Joseph Elison**

Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution urges federal assistance in stabilizing and restoring the Great Salt Lake.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▸ discusses the importance of the Great Salt Lake to Utah's economy and residents and explains the lake's decline;

▸ addresses Utah's efforts in restoring the Great Salt Lake; and

▸ urges the federal government to provide assistance in stabilizing and restoring the Great Salt Lake.

**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, the Governor concurring therein:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 WHEREAS, there is strong precedent for federal-state partnerships and investment in  
57 Western water projects, including Bureau of Reclamation projects and cost-sharing for major  
58 restoration projects across the country, that provide an established model for federal assistance  
59 in restoring the Great Salt Lake; and

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

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
63 Governor concurring therein, urges the President, Congress, and federal executive branch

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

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

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

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature emphasizes that federal assistance and  
72 regulation is necessary to address the massive costs incurred by prioritizing industry over  
73 public health in the management of the Great Salt Lake.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms Utah's commitment to  
75 partnership with federal leaders, along with leaders from Utah's local governments and Utah's  
76 business, philanthropy, and religious communities, to restore the Great Salt Lake ahead of the  
77 2034 Olympics and to preserve the lake for future generations.

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

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the  
83 United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
84 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the members of Utah's  
85 congressional delegation, and appropriate federal executive branch agencies.