

Carl R. Albrecht proposes the following substitute bill:

**Concurrent Resolution Regarding Permitting of Oil, Gas, and Mining**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton**

House Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution supports the effort to formalize a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to enhance the efficiency of the permit review process for oil, gas, and mining operations on BLM lands.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- discusses the intent to enter into and the benefits of an agreement with the BLM;
- supports the drafting of an agreement to formalize an enhanced cooperative and consultative relationship with the BLM;
- affirms the authority for the BLM to enter into such an agreement;
- urges the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to immediately initiate negotiations with the BLM to formalize an agreement;
- recognizes benefits of an agreement; and
- recognizes that the final agreement must explicitly state that the Secretary of the Interior or the authorized officer of the BLM retains the ultimate, non-delegable authority and final decision-making authority over the issuance of federal leases and permits.

**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, because delays in permitting on Bureau of Land Management land are impacting resource development in the state, a resource-sharing focused cooperative agreement with dual opt out (BLM agreement) would allow a streamlined application and

29 approval process for operators and significantly reduce permitting time frames without  
30 compromising compliance with existing law;

31 WHEREAS, a combined permitting process between the state and the United States  
32 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would include permits for oil,  
33 gas, and mining activities in the state;

34 WHEREAS, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining within the state's Department of Natural  
35 Resources intends to formalize a cooperative and consultative agreement with the BLM  
36 regarding oil, gas, and mining permits;

37 WHEREAS, this agreement is outlined in a Letter of Intent seeking to establish the  
38 foundation for a subsequent BLM agreement allowing the state to review and approve or  
39 acknowledge federal oil, gas, and mining permits on BLM land;

40 WHEREAS, the BLM agreement seeks to expand the state's role to include aspects of the  
41 permit approval review process for oil, gas, and mining operations, where both a Division of  
42 Oil, Gas, and Mining and a BLM permit is required, because coordinated review aids in future  
43 inspection and enforcement efficiency;

44 WHEREAS, the state is seeking an expedited review, analysis, and recommendation role,  
45 that could include the state taking the lead on the technical review of an Application for Permit  
46 to Drill;

47 WHEREAS, the statutory basis for cooperation includes leveraging the model for  
48 delegation of inspection and enforcement authority found in the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty  
49 Management Act of 1982;

50 WHEREAS, the BLM has broad authority to cooperate with states under fundamental land  
51 management laws, such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which  
52 mandates that BLM Resource Management Plans be consistent with state and local plans to the  
53 maximum extent possible;

54 WHEREAS, Utah's regulatory agencies, specifically the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining,  
55 possess specialized local expertise in the state's geology, resource issues, and surface  
56 reclamation requirements;

57 WHEREAS, the enhanced cooperation is anticipated to benefit the BLM by improving  
58 efficiency, reducing redundancy, and strengthening the local knowledge base for permit  
59 decisions;

60 WHEREAS, the state's review and sign-off on technical aspects of permit applications will  
61 save significant BLM staff time on technical review; and

62 WHEREAS, it is understood that the BLM retains the final decision-making authority for

63 all permitting actions, and the BLM agreement cannot transfer final permit authority to the  
64 state:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
66 Governor concurring therein:

67 (1) supports the state's commitment to drafting a comprehensive BLM agreement based on  
68 these principles and affirms the intent to formalize an enhanced cooperative and consultative  
69 relationship with the BLM;

70 (2) affirms that the authority for the Department of the Interior, BLM to enter into a BLM  
71 agreement stems from the existing authority for delegation of inspection and enforcement  
72 duties and general cooperation and coordinating agreements;

73 (3) urges the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to immediately initiate negotiations with the  
74 United States Department of the Interior and BLM to formalize this cooperative and  
75 consultative agreement;

76 (4) recognizes that using the specialized local expertise of the state's regulatory agencies,  
77 specifically the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, will improve efficiency and the defensibility  
78 of permit decisions; and

79 (5) recognizes that the final BLM agreement must explicitly state that the Secretary of the  
80 Interior or the authorized officer of the BLM retains the ultimate, non-delegable authority and  
81 final decision-making authority over the issuance of federal leases and permits.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature directs that copies of this resolution be  
83 sent to the Secretary of the Interior, the director of the BLM, the Majority and Minority Leader  
84 of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of  
85 Representatives, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.