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JOINT RESOLUTION URGING FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott K. Jenkins

House Sponsor: Brad L. Dee

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the National Collegiate Athletic Association to abandon the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) structure in favor of a college football playoff system.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- urges the National Collegiate Athletic Association to abandon the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) structure in favor of a college football playoff system to ensure that the best college football team is crowned as champion.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, the University of Utah football team finished the 2008 football season as the only undefeated football team in Division I-A, with a perfect 13-0 record;

WHEREAS, the University of Utah football team capped a season-long string of victories at the Sugar Bowl with an impressive 31-17 win over the University of Alabama, which held the number one ranking in the nation for five weeks;

WHEREAS, during the regular season, the Mountain West Conference had three teams in the Top 25 and had a 6-1 record against Pac-10 teams;

WHEREAS, in the 2008 season, the University of Utah football team defeated six bowl

teams, defeated three teams ranked in the Top 25, and won seven games away from home;

WHEREAS, as the matter currently stands, the University of Utah could go undefeated indefinitely and still not compete for a national title;

WHEREAS, the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) began in 1998 with the intent of crowning a definitive national champion;

WHEREAS, the BCS relies on a combination of polls and computer rankings to determine which teams play in the BCS national championship game and help set the lineups for the most prestigious bowl games;

WHEREAS, although the BCS may be an improvement over past championship determinations, the system is still widely acknowledged as falling short of its goal of establishing a definitive college football champion;

WHEREAS, many experts have candidly criticized the flaws in the BCS system and often use the 2008 University of Utah football team as the strongest argument for the failings of the system; and

WHEREAS, a national playoff is the only way to be certain that the team crowned as national champion has earned the designation on the gridiron:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah strongly urges the National Collegiate Athletic Association to abandon the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) structure for determining the Division I-A national football champion in favor of a playoff system so that all can be assured that the best college football team is the one crowned as national champion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the BCS, the University of Utah football team, to the members of Utah's congressional delegation, and to President Barack Obama.