

1                                   **RESOLUTION URGING RATIFICATION OF**  
2                                   **THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN**  
3                                   **TREATY**

4                                   2010 GENERAL SESSION

5                                   STATE OF UTAH

6                                   **Chief Sponsor: Jennifer M. Seelig**

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8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10                   This resolution of the House of Representatives requests that the United States Senate  
11 provide its advice and consent for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13                   This resolution:

14                   ▶ strongly urges the President of the United States to submit the Comprehensive Test  
15 Ban Treaty to the United States Senate; and

16                   ▶ strongly urges the United States Senate to promptly give its advice and consent for  
17 ratification of the Treaty.

18 **Special Clauses:**

19                   None

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21 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

22                   WHEREAS, a global halt to nuclear weapons testing has been a bipartisan objective of  
23 the United States since the late 1950s when President Dwight D. Eisenhower sought a  
24 comprehensive nuclear test ban;

25                   WHEREAS, the United States has not conducted a nuclear weapons test since the  
26 United States suspended testing and joined with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a  
27 nuclear weapons testing moratorium in September 1992;



28 WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was opened for signature on  
29 September 24, 1996, and President Bill Clinton was the first head of state to sign the Treaty;

30 WHEREAS, no nuclear tests have been conducted since that time by the United States,  
31 Russia, or China;

32 WHEREAS, as of June 2009, 180 states have signed the CTBT and 148 have ratified it;

33 WHEREAS, ratification of the CTBT would signal a strong commitment by the United  
34 States to fulfill its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, prompt ratification  
35 by other states which is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force, reinforce the global taboo  
36 against nuclear weapons testing, and set an example for the rest of the world;

37 WHEREAS, a global verifiable ban on nuclear weapons testing would prevent potential  
38 nuclear powers from proof testing smaller nuclear bombs that can be delivered on ballistic  
39 missiles;

40 WHEREAS, United States ratification of the CTBT would be a significant step towards  
41 preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear weapons arsenals worldwide, and  
42 building confidence among nations that abolition of nuclear weapons can someday be  
43 achieved;

44 WHEREAS, after 1,030 nuclear test explosions, further nuclear weapons testing is not  
45 necessary to maintain the integrity, effectiveness, and deterrence value of the existing United  
46 States nuclear weapons stockpile, nor is there any new military requirement for new types of  
47 United States nuclear warheads;

48 WHEREAS, the United States government acknowledges that 433 of 824 United States  
49 underground tests have vented radiation to the atmosphere;

50 WHEREAS, as part of its recognition of the 50th anniversary of nuclear weapons  
51 testing at the Nevada Test Site, in the 2001 General Session, the 54th Legislature of the state of  
52 Utah expressed, "the fervent desire and commitment to assure that such a legacy will never be  
53 repeated";

54 WHEREAS, resumption of United States nuclear weapons testing would place persons  
55 downwind of the Nevada test location at risk of exposure to radioactive emissions from  
56 possible venting;

57 WHEREAS, citizens of Utah living downwind of the Nevada Test Site have already  
58 suffered significant health effects as a result of nuclear weapons testing;

59 WHEREAS, in the best interests of their children and grandchildren, Utah's remaining  
60 "downwinders" continue to fight the resumption of any nuclear weapons testing;

61 WHEREAS, past nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada Test Site has devastated the  
62 health and livelihoods of thousands of Utahns;

63 WHEREAS, in 2005, the 58th Legislature of the state of Utah voted in support of a  
64 Concurrent Resolution Opposing Nuclear Testing, articulating that, "The state of Utah has an  
65 obligation to its citizens, especially those who have suffered so much, to do all in its power to  
66 ensure that the lingering wounds from nuclear testing are not reopened to afflict both current  
67 and future generations";

68 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah supports a strong military defense, but  
69 atomic weapons tests are not a necessary component of that defense;

70 WHEREAS, United States' citizens must not be subjected to the hazards of future  
71 nuclear weapons tests;

71a **H→ WHEREAS, the CTBT Organization effectively monitors compliance with the CTBT**  
71b **through an International Monitoring System, consisting of 337 stations using state-of-the-art**  
71c **seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide technologies and capable of detecting and**  
71d **identifying a nuclear weapons test explosion anywhere in the world within hours: ←H**

72 WHEREAS, the CTBT is effectively verifiable and would improve the United States'  
73 ability to detect, deter, and respond to potential surreptitious nuclear weapons testing by other  
74 nations;

74a **H→ WHEREAS, Article 9 of the CTBT permits withdrawal by the United States in**  
74b **case extraordinary future developments, including the need to respond to a violation by**  
74c **another nation, were to jeopardize our supreme national interests;**

74d **WHEREAS, independent expert assessments commissioned by the National Nuclear**  
74e **Security Administration have concluded that measures under the Stockpile Stewardship**  
74f **Program and Life Extension Program can support certification of today's nuclear warheads as**  
74g **safe, secure, and reliable for decades without the need to resort to underground nuclear**  
74h **weapons testing: ←H** and

75 WHEREAS, the CTBT would increase international safety and security and is in the  
76 best interests of Utah, the United States, and the world:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
78 state of Utah strongly urges the President of the United States to submit the Comprehensive  
79 Test Ban Treaty to the United States Senate.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the state of Utah  
81 strongly urges the United States Senate to promptly give its advice and consent for ratification  
82 of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
84 the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to Utah Senators Orrin  
85 Hatch and Bob Bennett.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-28-10 9:30 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note**

**H.R. 4 - Resolution Urging Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test  
Ban Treaty**

2010 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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