

Senator Peter C. Knudson proposes the following substitute bill:

**BEAR LAKE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson**

House Sponsor: Roger E. Barrus

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor encourages state and local governments surrounding the Bear Lake area to work together to ensure responsible development of the area.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes that the beautiful Bear Lake area is a treasure to be preserved;
- ▶ encourages government entities at both state and local levels that will be impacted by future development at Bear Lake and in the Bear Lake Valley to focus on preserving the beauty, agricultural importance, environmental quality, and ecological balance of this natural resource;
- ▶ encourages these governmental entities to preserve the Bear Lake area and allow only those light industries and other development that will not interfere with the unique nature of Bear Lake in order to preserve the area's beauty and utility for future generations; and
- ▶ states that nothing in the resolution is intended to impact the operation of Bear Lake as a reservoir for storage, water delivery, and distribution to water users in the Bear River Valley.



26           ▶ **Special Clauses:**

27           None

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29 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

30           WHEREAS, Bear Lake is positioned between Idaho and Utah and is one of the focal  
31 points of interest belonging to these two great states;

32           WHEREAS, Bear Lake is considered by many to be the "Caribbean of the West"  
33 because of its turquoise blue color;

34           WHEREAS, Bear Lake has become a recreational destination for people from  
35 throughout the West because of the great boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, scouting, and  
36 biking opportunities it provides;

37           WHEREAS, Bear Lake's beautiful scenery, gorgeous sunsets, and changing lake colors  
38 provide peace to the soul and natural esthetics that are rare and valuable to all who behold  
39 them;

40           WHEREAS, Bear Lake has been an important source of water for Northern Utah's  
41 agricultural interests since the settlement and development of the region and has been and  
42 continues to be important to the development and preservation of wetland habitat;

43           WHEREAS, there is growing recognition that the Bear Lake area will continue to grow  
44 and that local development can be beneficial;

45           WHEREAS, because Bear Lake belongs to all the citizens of Utah and Idaho, the reality  
46 of development raises significant concerns for many residents and visitors who hope that the  
47 character of Bear Lake and Bear Lake Valley will be preserved, not sacrificed;

48           WHEREAS, nothing in this resolution is intended to impact the operation of Bear Lake  
49 as a reservoir for storage, water delivery, and distribution to water users in the Bear River  
50 Valley;

51           WHEREAS, several Utah state agencies also have a stake in development along Bear  
52 Lake and in the Bear Lake Valley due to its potential impact on this precious resource;

53           WHEREAS, the state of Idaho also has a vested interest in any development of this  
54 area, since portions of the area fall within that state's boundaries; and

55           WHEREAS, while it may be inevitable that future development will occur along Bear  
56 Lake and in the surrounding Bear Lake Valley, it is vital that this development not be allowed

57 to encroach on the beauty, agricultural importance, environmental quality, and ecological  
58 balance of this natural resource:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
60 Governor concurring therein, recognize that the beautiful Bear Lake area is a treasure to be  
61 preserved.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage  
63 government entities at both state and local levels that will be impacted by future development  
64 at Bear Lake and in the Bear Lake Valley to focus on preserving the beauty, agricultural  
65 importance, environmental quality, and ecological balance of this natural resource.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage those  
67 governmental entities to preserve the Bear Lake recreation area so that only those light  
68 industries and other development that will not interfere with the unique nature of Bear Lake  
69 should be allowed in order to preserve the area's beauty and utility for future generations.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor state that nothing  
71 in this resolution is intended to impact the operation of Bear Lake as a reservoir for storage,  
72 water delivery, and distribution to water users in the Bear River Valley;

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah  
74 Division of State Lands, the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, the Utah Division of  
75 Water Quality, the Utah Division of Water Rights, the Utah Department of Agriculture and  
76 Food, Rich County, Cache County, Box Elder County, Bear Lake County, the cities of  
77 Woodruff, Randolph, Lake Town, and Garden City, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the  
78 Utah Association of Counties, Bear Lake Watch, the members of Utah's congressional  
79 delegation, the members of Idaho's congressional delegation, the cities of St. Charles,  
80 Bloomington, Paris, and Montpelier in Idaho, and to Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter.