

Senator Ralph Okerlund proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE**
2 **HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK SAN JUAN MISSION HISTORIC**
3 **TRAIL**

4 2012 GENERAL SESSION

5 STATE OF UTAH

6 **Chief Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund**

7 House Sponsor: Michael E. Noel

8
9 **LONG TITLE**

10 **General Description:**

11 This joint resolution of the Legislature honors the Utah pioneers who participated in the
12 San Juan Mission and designates the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, over which the San Juan
13 Mission passed, as a state historic trail.

14 **Highlighted Provisions:**

15 This resolution:

16 ▶ honors the Utah pioneers who participated in the 1879-1880 trek of the San Juan
17 Mission and successfully constructed and traversed a trail from Parowan, Utah, to
18 Bluff, Utah, through some of the most difficult and desolate terrain in the western
19 United States;

20 ▶ designates the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail (Trail) over which the San Juan Mission
21 passed as a state historic trail;

22 ▶ sets forth how the designation is to be conducted;

23 ▶ recognizes the importance of conserving the Trail for the use and enjoyment of
24 future generations, to foster cooperative and coordinated planning, management,
25 and interpretation that spans the length of the Trail;



- 26 ▶ urges that the designation be coordinated through an inter-organizational
- 27 collaborative team consisting of counties, applicable state and federal land and
- 28 resource management agencies, and relevant non-governmental organizations;
- 29 ▶ urges that a management plan be developed, with the participation of Garfield
- 30 County, Iron County, Kane County, San Juan County, the Bureau of Land
- 31 Management, the National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service that
- 32 focuses on interpretation, management of key Trail-related public use areas on
- 33 public lands, and access;
- 34 ▶ declares that this designation shall have no effect on private property rights, water
- 35 rights, grazing rights, access rights, or other existing rights on public lands;
- 36 ▶ declares that portions of the trail that are public roads shall be managed for public
- 37 transportation and not rerouted as a result of historic trail designation;
- 38 ▶ recognizes that the Trail supports local and regional tourism economies by
- 39 attracting tourists having an interest in the Southern Utah culture and the history of
- 40 western settlement;
- 41 ▶ declares that acquisition of Trail-related lands by the state of Utah is prohibited;
- 42 ▶ declares that the Board of State Parks and Recreation is authorized to designate
- 43 additional trails within the state of Utah as state historic trails, and that designated
- 44 trails shall be determined to be of statewide significance and shall meet other
- 45 criteria as defined by the board.

46 **Special Clauses:**

47 None



48
49 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

50 WHEREAS, the San Juan Mission's trek over the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail (Trail) is

51 recognized as one of the most difficult and courageous wagon journeys in the history of

52 western settlement;

53 WHEREAS, the state of Utah Historic Preservation Office has certified the national

54 significance of the Trail, and the National Park Service has affirmed this significance by

55 designating the Trail as a National Historic site;

56 WHEREAS, the Trail is accessible along much of its route and there are several sites

57 along the Trail that are of high historical significance;

58 WHEREAS, currently, there is no unified, trail-wide effort to interpret the Trail for
59 visitors;

60 WHEREAS, the Escalante Heritage Center has a direct physical and cultural link to the
61 Trail and can serve as a focal point for visitor contact in the middle portion of the Trail;

62 WHEREAS, the Hole-in-Rock Foundation has plans for a future visitor facility in
63 Bluff;

64 WHEREAS, the visibility of the Trail has increased significantly in the past year due to
65 the publication of Gerald Lund's book, "The Undaunted";

66 WHEREAS, interest in visiting the Trail has increased significantly, particularly among
67 Utahns who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;

68 WHEREAS, an analysis of these visits in the Escalante area shows that during the
69 spring and summer of 2010, church group visits provided community benefits of from \$3,000
70 to \$15,000, with a total benefit of approximately \$80,000;

71 WHEREAS, much of the Trail is bordered by federal lands managed by the United
72 States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or the National Park Service;

73 WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Trail is contiguous with or adjacent to public
74 roads managed by the state of Utah, a county, or a municipality, with only small and relatively
75 insignificant portions of the Trail crossing into private property;

76 WHEREAS, federal managers of lands along the Trail are initiating efforts to cooperate
77 and coordinate with local governments to increase interpretive opportunities along the Trail
78 and engage in coordinated Trail management;

79 WHEREAS, BLM's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) seeks to
80 improve public use of Trail-related sites;

81 WHEREAS, in the summer of 2011, the GSENM began issuing permission to large
82 groups to hold historic-oriented events at Dancehill Rock or to camp at Forty Mile Spring, two
83 areas popular with culturally oriented groups;

84 WHEREAS, the GSENM is also engaged in an ongoing effort with Kane and Garfield
85 counties over the management of the Hole-in-the-Rock Road, which will increase
86 interpretation of, and access to, these historic sites;

87 WHEREAS, many consider the Hole-in-the-Rock Road to be one of the best all terrain

88 vehicle (ATV) roads in the area, and Utah counties and federal agencies desire to appropriately
89 manage ATV use on the Hole-in-th-Rock Road;

90 WHEREAS, interpretive opportunities and access to the Trail and Trail-related historic
91 sites are largely undeveloped;

92 WHEREAS, evidence regarding tourism in Southern Utah suggests that historically
93 significant trails attract tourists and are culturally beneficial, especially for families and retired
94 persons;

95 WHEREAS, these are also the visitors most likely to contribute to local economies and
96 to benefit from interpretive opportunities during their stay in the area;

97 WHEREAS, local tourism interests believe that a focus on the historical significance of
98 the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail could be a significant boost to the tourism economies of
99 communities along the Trail;

100 WHEREAS, coordination between federal and local agencies will maximize
101 responsible use by current and future generations; and

102 WHEREAS, it is fitting that the state of Utah designate the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail
103 from Parowan to Bluff as a state historic trail for the use and enjoyment of future generations:

104 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
105 honors the Utah pioneers who participated in the 1879-1880 trek of the San Juan Mission and
106 successfully constructed and traversed a trail from Parowan, Utah, to Bluff, Utah, through
107 some of the most difficult and desolate terrain in the Western United States.

108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah designates the
109 Hole-in-the-Rock Trail from Parowan to Bluff as a state historic trail.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Legislature of the state of Utah urges that this
111 designation be coordinated through an inter-organizational collaborative team consisting of
112 counties, applicable state and federal land and resource management agencies, and relevant
113 non-governmental organizations.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges that a
115 management plan be developed, with the participation of Garfield County, Iron County, Kane
116 County, San Juan County, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the
117 United States Forest Service that focuses on interpretation, management of key Trail-related
118 public use areas on public lands, and access.

119 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges that this
120 designation have no affect on private property rights, water rights, access rights, grazing rights,
121 or other existing rights on public lands.

122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges that
123 portions of the trail that are public roads should continue to be managed for public
124 transportation and not rerouted as a result of historic trail designation.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the Board
126 of State Parks and Recreation to designate additional trails within the state of Utah as state
127 historic trails, if the trails are determined by the board to be of statewide significance and to
128 meet other criteria as defined by the board.

129 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of
130 State Parks and Recreation, the cities of Parowan and Bluff, Utah, the Kane County
131 Commission, the Garfield County Commission, the Iron County Commission, the San Juan
132 County Commission, the Bureau of Land Management, Escalante Heritage Center, the United
133 States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the State of Utah Historic Preservation
134 Office.