

**JOINT RESOLUTION ENDORSING TIER III STANDARDS  
FOR AIR QUALITY**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Air Quality Board to expedite measures and work collaboratively with various private and public entities to bring Tier III-compliant motor vehicles and low-sulfur fuels to Utah.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ recognizes that the low-sulfur fuels and vehicle emissions standards in the Environmental Protection Agency's ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ Tier III Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards are crucial to improving the safety, health, and welfare of Utah's citizens and the beauty of the state;

▶ urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Air Quality Board to expedite measures to bring Tier III-compliant motor vehicles and low-sulfur fuels to the state of Utah as soon as feasibly possible;

▶ urges the Department of Environmental Quality and the Air Quality Board to work with federal regulatory agencies to avoid the negative effects on Utah of the "one size fits all" national standard that would lead to delays in implementing Tier III low-sulfur fuel standards by refineries serving Utah and result in Utah-serving refineries not producing or selling low-sulfur fuels in Utah due to national

H.J.R. 23



28 averaging, banking, and trading provisions;

29 ▶ expresses support for measures that will encourage and entice refineries, automotive  
30 dealerships, and private and public entities to produce and sell low-sulfur fuels and  
31 acquire and sell Tier III-compliant vehicles in Utah as soon as reasonably possible;  
32 and

33 ▶ urges that the Department of Environmental Quality and the Air Quality Board, in  
34 pursuing expeditious implementation of Tier III standards in Utah, work closely  
35 with refineries, automobile dealerships, and private and public entities, including  
36 federal agencies, to accommodate needed facility upgrades and minimize impacts  
37 on consumer prices and product supplies.

38 **Special Clauses:**

39 None



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

42 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah is charged with protecting and  
43 enhancing the safety, health, and welfare of its citizens and protecting and preserving the  
44 beauty of Utah;

45 WHEREAS, the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Utah are  
46 profoundly affected by its air quality;

47 WHEREAS, communities along the Wasatch Front and other areas in the state of Utah  
48 experience episodic and sustained periods of time where air pollutants are elevated to levels  
49 that are known to cause serious short- and long-term health problems in humans;

50 WHEREAS, because of air quality's impact on the ability to recruit and retain  
51 businesses and a high quality labor force, as well as the cost of negative health impacts and the  
52 loss of tourism and recreational revenue, air quality significantly impacts the economy of the  
53 state of Utah;

54 WHEREAS, vehicle emissions account for over 50% of total emissions and contribute  
55 significantly to the buildup of air pollutants during wintertime inversions;

56 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ~~H~~→ [is proposing]  
56a **has adopted** ←~~H~~

57 national standards for improved vehicle emissions and fuels, called Tier III standards;

58 WHEREAS, these ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ standards will significantly reduce vehicle  
58a emissions of

59 nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) -- pollutants that are significant  
60 contributors to poor air quality in the state of Utah;

61 WHEREAS, combining ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ Tier III low-sulfur fuel standards with  
62 implementation of proposed Tier III vehicle emission standards for new vehicles will, over  
63 time, reduce VOC and NOx emissions per vehicle-mile traveled by as much as 80% compared  
64 to current Tier II standards, and result in significant reductions in ozone and secondary PM 2.5  
65 -- pollutants of great concern in the state of Utah;

66 WHEREAS, the emission controls in the vehicles required under the ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~  
66a Tier III  
67 standards do not function properly without Tier III low-sulfur fuels;

68 WHEREAS, use of low-sulfur fuels will result in immediate and significant  
69 improvements in the efficiencies of catalytic converter function in the majority of Utah's  
70 current pre-Tier III gasoline vehicle fleet and result in immediate and significant reductions in  
71 tailpipe emissions from vehicles currently being driven in Utah;

72 WHEREAS, the EPA's ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ Tier III fuel standards allow for three  
72a additional years  
73 to phase in the production of low-sulfur fuels by small refineries similar to those in Utah;

74 WHEREAS, due to the relatively small size of Utah's refineries, current provisions that  
75 allow averaging, trading, and banking of low-sulfur fuel production will likely result in cleaner  
76 low-sulfur fuels being produced and sold in states other than Utah;

77 WHEREAS, current nonattainment counties in Utah stand to benefit more than any  
78 other multicounty area in the United States from ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ national Tier III standards;  
78a and

79 WHEREAS, allowing the EPA's ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ national Tier III standards to go  
79a into effect  
80 without taking independent action to assure that low-sulfur fuels are produced and sold in Utah  
81 will result in significant lost opportunities, in both the short- and long-term, to improve Utah's  
82 air quality:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
84 recognizes that the low-sulfur fuels and vehicle emission standards in the Environmental  
85 Protection Agency's ~~H~~→ [proposed] ←~~H~~ Tier III Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards  
85a are crucial  
86 for improving the safety, health, and welfare of Utah's citizens and the beauty of the state.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the Utah  
88 Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Air Quality Board to expedite measures to  
89 bring Tier III-compliant motor vehicles and low-sulfur fuels to the state of Utah as soon as