

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING PUBLIC LANDS**

2                                   **INITIATIVE**

3   2015 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: David P. Hinkins**

6                                   House Sponsor: Scott H. Chew

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**LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9                   This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses strong support  
10 for the Public Lands Initiative and for locally driven land use planning over unilateral  
11 federal action regarding Utah's public lands.  
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13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14                   This resolution:

- 15                   ▶ expresses strong support to counties in Utah that choose to participate in the Public  
16 Lands Initiative;
- 17                   ▶ expresses the Legislature's commitment to the ideals of local control, local  
18 ownership, and local lands management and the belief that the Public Lands  
19 Initiative would strengthen these ideals;
- 20                   ▶ expresses the Legislature's preference for locally driven land use planning over the  
21 unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of 1906;
- 22                   ▶ expresses support for the efforts of Utah's congressional delegation and participating  
23 counties in Utah to bring resolution to the long-standing public land disputes; and
- 24                   ▶ encourages the ongoing, open, and transparent Public Lands Initiative to move  
25 forward.

26 **Special Clauses:**

27                   None



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

WHEREAS, perpetual land management, land use, and land access disputes on federally owned lands in the state reduce economic development opportunities in local communities and impede successful management of lands and resources;

WHEREAS, resolving perpetual land management, land use, and land access disputes would bring regulatory certainty to local governments, spur economic development, and improve land and range health;

WHEREAS, the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), an effort spearheaded by Utah's congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, Native American tribes, the Legislature, non-governmental organizations, and various Utah counties, is intended to bring resolution to perpetual land management, land use, and land access disputes and create regulatory certainty for the citizens in Utah's public lands counties;

WHEREAS, PLI has the potential to boost mineral production, create jobs and economic growth, diminish the federal footprint in local communities, protect livestock grazing, enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, and increase state and local management of lands and resources;

WHEREAS, PLI provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to relocate hundreds of thousands of captured school trust parcels into more accessible, energy-rich areas of the state that could provide a higher rate of return for Utah's schoolchildren;

WHEREAS, PLI is complementary to Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act, as both efforts are designed to bring greater local control, local ownership, and public lands management to local communities;

WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation, the Governor's Office, and the Legislature are committed to empowering local elected officials and garnering support from those closest to the land as part of PLI;

WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor have been active participants as PLI has been developed;

WHEREAS, several locations in Utah have been listed on United States Department of the Interior national monument planning documents;

WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor prefer locally driven land use planning

59 over the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

60 WHEREAS, unilateral executive actions in any Utah county would impede locally  
61 driven planning efforts and likely stifle future public land management progress:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
63 Governor concurring therein, expresses strong support to counties in Utah that choose to  
64 participate in the Public Lands Initiative.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their  
66 commitment to the ideals of local control, local ownership, and local lands management and  
67 the belief that the Public Lands Initiative would strengthen these ideals.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their  
69 preference for locally driven land use planning over the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act of  
70 1906.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express support  
72 for the efforts of Utah's congressional delegation and Utah's participating counties to bring  
73 resolution to the long-standing public land disputes and encourage the ongoing, open, and  
74 transparent Public Lands Initiative to move forward.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
76 the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Utah  
77 Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Governor's Office of  
78 Economic Development, the Utah Chamber of Commerce, the Native American Tribes  
79 participating in the Public Lands Initiative, and the members of Utah's congressional  
80 delegation.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-25-15 10:12 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**