

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RANCHERS**
2 **GRAZING LIVESTOCK ON PUBLIC LANDS**

3 2017 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: John R. Westwood**

6 Senate Sponsor: _____

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This resolution expresses support for Utah ranchers grazing livestock on Utah's public
11 lands.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ highlights the positive impact ranching has on the state of Utah;
- 15 ▶ expresses support for continued livestock grazing on public lands; and
- 16 ▶ urges the federal government to implement policies supportive of grazing on public

17 lands.

18 **Special Clauses:**

19 None

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

22 WHEREAS, ranchers have commercially grazed livestock on lands in Utah for over
23 150 years;

24 WHEREAS, Utah's animal agriculture industry is valued at over \$1 billion;

25 WHEREAS, livestock is the dominant agricultural sector in 25 of Utah's 29 counties;

26 WHEREAS, approximately three quarters of the land in Utah is publicly owned;

27 WHEREAS, public lands are mandated by Congress to be managed under the principle



28 of multiple use;

29 WHEREAS, public lands are intended to be managed in a manner that will provide
30 food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals;

31 WHEREAS, public lands must be managed in a manner that recognizes the nation's
32 need for domestic sources of food from the public lands;

33 WHEREAS, grazing permits to Utah ranchers from the Bureau of Land Management
34 have steadily declined over the past 75 years;

35 WHEREAS, well-planned and -managed livestock grazing is a tool for maintaining
36 healthy rangelands, watersheds, and wildlife habitats;

37 WHEREAS, on many of Utah's public lands, the species that rely on these habitats
38 persist in large part due to longstanding stewardship by ranchers who are committed to a
39 healthy future for the state's rangelands;

40 WHEREAS, continued livestock grazing on Utah's public lands is vital to maintaining
41 the way of life of many of the state's residents; and

42 WHEREAS, livestock grazing on public lands is a key component of the economic
43 viability of rural Utah:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
45 Governor concurring therein, expresses support for Utah ranchers grazing livestock on Utah's
46 public lands.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the federal
48 government to implement policies that encourage grazing on public lands and reduce barriers
49 to continued stewardship of Utah's rangelands by local ranchers.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the United
51 States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Majority
52 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
53 and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.