

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING NASA TO**  
2                   **CONSIDER TOOELE COUNTY FOR A TEST FACILITY**

3                                   2017 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                           **Chief Sponsor: Douglas V. Sagers**

6                           Senate Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This concurrent resolution supports the building of a NASA drone testing facility and  
11   Command Control Center in Tooele County, Utah.

12   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This resolution:

- 14           ▶ recognizes the favorable conditions that make Tooele County, Utah, an ideal site to
- 15   locate unmanned vehicle testing;
- 16           ▶ acknowledges the positive economic impact that a NASA drone testing facility and
- 17   Command Control Center would have on Tooele County and the state; and
- 18           ▶ supports the building of a NASA drone testing facility and Command Control
- 19   Center in Tooele County, Utah.

20   **Special Clauses:**

21           None

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

24           WHEREAS, Congress has directed the Federal Aviation Administration and the  
25   National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to select a single national test site for  
26   commercial drone testing by April 15, 2017;

27           WHEREAS, the landscape and topography of Tooele County, Utah, is ideal for testing



28 airborne and land-based unmanned vehicles;

29 WHEREAS, Tooele County is a dedicated "friendly" unmanned vehicle testing county;

30 WHEREAS, airspace over portions of Tooele County is already dedicated to military  
31 testing, and there is substantial additional space available for nonmilitary, commercial drone  
32 testing;

33 WHEREAS, Tooele County has existing infrastructure in place from former, completed  
34 military missions;

35 WHEREAS, on behalf of the United States, Tooele County has historically been willing  
36 to conduct military missions involving chemical, biological, and other weapons testing, and  
37 undertake the destruction of nuclear missiles and other weapons under the Strategic Arms  
38 Reduction Treaty;

39 WHEREAS, over several decades, Tooele County has developed a vast military and  
40 commercial waste storage infrastructure, which is now declining;

41 WHEREAS, Tooele County must diversify its economy in order to meet future  
42 economic needs;

43 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to developing a drone-friendly economic  
44 culture;

45 WHEREAS, bringing NASA into Utah creates significant new educational  
46 opportunities for students attending Utah's state and private institutions of higher learning;

47 WHEREAS, according to the state's economist, NASA's testing facility and Command  
48 Control Center operations would provide an economic benefit to the state of at least \$250  
49 million annually; and

50 WHEREAS, Tooele County represents an extremely favorable site to locate advanced,  
51 nonwaste related open areas for unmanned vehicle testing:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
53 Governor concurring therein, supports the building of a NASA test facility and a subsequent  
54 Command Control Center in Tooele County.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the  
56 Governor's Office of Economic Development work in conjunction with Tooele County to  
57 develop a plan to expand Utah's unmanned vehicle infrastructure.

**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**