

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING UTAH'S**  
2                   **ROBUST ECONOMIC GROWTH AND URBANIZATION**

3                                   2018 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Brad R. Wilson**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams

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8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10           This concurrent resolution recognizes Utah's robust economic growth and urbanization.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12           This resolution:

- 13           ▶ recognizes Utah's robust economic growth and urbanization;
- 14           ▶ recognizes the need for forward thinking planning and zoning, appropriate
- 15 infrastructure investment, and a talented workforce in Utah's metropolitan areas;
- 16 and
- 17           ▶ requests that the director of the United States Office of Management and Budget
- 18 review Utah's metropolitan statistical area designations.

19 **Special Clauses:**

20           None

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

23           WHEREAS, the state of Utah is regularly recognized as among the best states for  
24 business;

25           WHEREAS, Utah has led the nation in economic growth and job creation since the  
26 Great Recession;

27           WHEREAS, the state's strong economic growth has been accompanied by robust  
28 population growth;

29 WHEREAS, Utah recently reached 3,000,000 residents and is projected to reach  
30 5,000,000 residents by 2050;

31 WHEREAS, Utah enjoys a variety of community types, from rural small towns to a  
32 major urban center;

33 WHEREAS, the Wasatch Front is home to more than 2,000,000 residents, representing  
34 nearly 85% of Utah's population and roughly an equal percentage of the state's economy;

35 WHEREAS, Utah is already among the most urbanized states in the nation based on the  
36 concentration of the state's population in metropolitan areas;

37 WHEREAS, Utah's rapid urban growth should bolster job creation in rural communities  
38 through supporting tourism, business expansion and teleworking, disciplined planning and  
39 investment, and expanded export opportunities;

40 WHEREAS, continued population growth will occur in the state's metropolitan areas  
41 and increase urbanization;

42 WHEREAS, the growth of metropolitan areas is among the most significant changes in  
43 Utah's urban dynamics in a generation, presenting significant economic opportunities;

44 WHEREAS, nearly 75% of new jobs in the state since 2008 have been created in Utah's  
45 metropolitan areas;

46 WHEREAS, the intersection of Utah's two largest counties at Point of the Mountain  
47 represents a monumental shift to the economic and social integration of the region;

48 WHEREAS, the United States Office of Management and Budget delineates  
49 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are  
50 applied to United States Census Bureau data;

51 WHEREAS, Utah's metropolitan areas along the Wasatch Front have a high degree of  
52 economic and social integration, but are currently divided into three metropolitan statistical  
53 areas; and

54 WHEREAS, this division does not comprehensively represent the collective  
55 integration, economic growth, and urbanization of these areas, which can have a material

56 impact on the state's national profile, economic development opportunities, and ability to create  
57 a regional approach to addressing long-term population growth:

58         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
59 Governor concurring therein, recognizes Utah's robust economic growth and urbanization.

60         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize that the  
61 state's metropolitan areas need forward thinking planning and zoning, appropriate infrastructure  
62 investment, and a talented workforce in order to continue to grow economically and enhance  
63 the quality of life for Utah residents.

64         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the  
65 United States Office of Management and Budget review Utah's metropolitan statistical area  
66 designations to better reflect the high degree of economic and social integration along the  
67 Wasatch Front.

68         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the director of  
69 the United States Office of Management and Budget and the members of Utah's congressional  
70 delegation.