

**JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING UTAH'S SPORTSMEN  
AND SPORTSWOMEN**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution recognizes the impact Utah's sportsmen and sportswomen have on our

29 state's natural resources and economy.

30 **Highlighted Provisions:**

31 This resolution:

32 ▶ urges Congress to protect and enhance public lands for Utah's sportsmen and  
33 sportswomen to advance the goals of hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and  
34 others; and

35 ▶ urges Congress to respect the historic and current use of Utah's public land by sportsmen  
36 and sportswomen, support the time-honored Utah traditions of hunting and angling, the  
37 very backbone of conservation, and respect the administration of wildlife conservation  
38 through the sound science delivered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and  
39 science-based policies developed by the Utah Wildlife Board.

40 **Special Clauses:**

41 None



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

44 WHEREAS, Utah has a rich and storied culture of hunting, fishing, trapping, and  
45 recreational shooting that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day;

46 WHEREAS, Utah's sportsmen and sportswomen were among the first conservationists  
47 to support the establishment of a wildlife management agency, now referred to as the Utah  
48 Division of Wildlife Resources, to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats;

49 WHEREAS, through their license fees, Utah's sportsmen and sportswomen helped fund  
50 state efforts to provide for multiple uses of healthy and sustainable natural resources;

51 WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and  
52 sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and sportswomen supported  
53 self-imposed excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment, as well as firearms and  
54 ammunition, to raise additional conservation funds;

55 WHEREAS, to this day, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is funded primarily by  
56 sportsmen and sportswomen, through this American System of Conservation Funding - a "user

57 pays, public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish  
58 and wildlife management in the world;

59 WHEREAS, last year alone, Utah's sportsmen and sportswomen generated \$44.94  
60 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Utah Division of Wildlife  
61 Resources and partners;

62 WHEREAS, Utah's 493,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through  
63 spending more than \$1.04 billion while engaged in their pursuits;

64 WHEREAS, annually, this spending supports approximately 19,677 jobs in Utah and  
65 generates over \$62 million in state and local taxes; and

66 WHEREAS, Utah's vast public and private lands are vital in providing opportunities for  
67 Utahns to hunt, fish, trap, and recreationally shoot:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
69 urges the United States Congress to protect and enhance access to public lands for Utah's  
70 sportsmen and sportswomen to advance the goals of hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and  
71 others.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the  
73 United States Congress to respect the historic and current use of Utah's public and private lands  
74 by sportsmen and sportswomen, support the time-honored Utah traditions of hunting and  
75 angling, the very backbone of conservation, and respect the administration of wildlife  
76 conservation through the sound science delivered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
77 and science-based policies developed by the Utah Wildlife Board.