

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING POLICIES THAT  
REDUCE DAMAGE FROM WILDFIRES**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward**

Senate Sponsor: Ronald Winterton

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution urges the federal government to pursue policies that allow for easier reduction of excess forest fuel loads ~~and minimize further climate warming~~ .

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ notes that recent wildfire seasons have been exceptionally destructive;
- ▶ notes the impact that wildfire has on air quality in Utah; ~~and~~
- ▶ urges the federal government to pursue forest fuel load reductions to mitigate

wildfire risk ~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~urges the federal government to pursue policies that minimize additional climate change~~ ~~;~~ ~~and~~

▶ urges that entities work together to find policies regarding effectively using prescribed burns.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, recent fire seasons in Utah have been exceptionally destructive, including the 2018 fire season which included 485,989 acres and 400 structures burned and fire-fighting costs estimated to be \$150,000,000;

WHEREAS, because of smoke from wildfires, Utah's air quality during the summer of



28 2018 was much worse than usual along the Wasatch Front with a large increase in the number  
 29 of unhealthy red air quality days;

30 WHEREAS, if wildfires continue to worsen, it will come with a terrible cost in terms of  
 31 dollars to fight the fires and increased loss of property and loss of human life; ~~and~~

32 ~~WHEREAS, human carbon dioxide emissions are leading to increased global~~  
 33 ~~temperatures, including warmer and dryer summers in Utah that are a contributing factor to~~  
 34 ~~worsening wildfires; and]~~

35 WHEREAS, federal land management policies that encourage a large amount of excess  
 36 fuel load to accumulate in our forests are also a contributing factor to worsening wildfires:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
 38 Governor concurring therein, urges the federal government to pursue policies that allow for  
 39 common sense fuel load reductions in Utah's forests, including ~~easier permitting of prescribed~~  
 40 ~~burns during times of the year with low fire risk and]~~ allowing for appropriate salvage logging  
 41 to occur before timber loses its economic value.

42 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor~~  
 43 ~~concurring therein, urges the federal government to minimize additional climate change by~~  
 44 ~~pursuing policies that will lead to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.]~~

44a **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge that the**  
 44b **Legislature, through the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim**  
 44c **Committee, work with the executive branch, through the Utah Department of Natural**  
 44d **Resources, and their federal counterparts in the United States Forest Services to find policies**  
 44e **that can improve our abilities to effectively use prescribed burns, including options for**  
 44f **revising the Regional Haze State Implementation Plan to allow for easier permitting of**  
 44g **prescribed burns during times of the year with low fire risk.**

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of  
 46 Utah's federal delegation, the chief of the United States Forest Service, and the director of the  
 47 United States Bureau of Land Management.