

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING SOLUTIONS FOR
THE CENTRAL WASATCH MOUNTAINS**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution urges solutions for the Central Wasatch Mountains.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the tremendous value of the Central Wasatch Mountains;
- ▶ acknowledges the work of the Central Wasatch Commission to develop solutions that address significant transportation and land management issues;
- ▶ urges the President of the United States, Congress, and Utah's congressional delegation to propose and secure passage of legislation that implements the Central Wasatch Commission's recommendations; and
- ▶ reflects the desires of local and state governments to work with all parties to further solutions to longstanding issues and desires of the parties of the Mountain Accord.

Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, the Central Wasatch Mountains have enormous economic, watershed, natural, and recreational value for the state of Utah;

WHEREAS, resolving the longstanding issues facing the Central Wasatch Mountains



28 and providing for the implementation of actions that will serve the Central Wasatch Region and
29 the state of Utah benefits all parties, interests, and governmental entities;

30 WHEREAS, public and private parties worked together for five years to find solutions
31 to longstanding issues in the Central Wasatch Mountains, resulting in a comprehensive
32 agreement, the Mountain Accord, signed by all major stakeholders;

33 WHEREAS, part of the Mountain Accord called for the establishment of a coordinating
34 and implementing governmental entity, which became the Central Wasatch Commission,
35 formed in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, by the state of
36 Utah and all the local governments in and around the Central Wasatch Mountains;

37 WHEREAS, the Central Wasatch Commission, dedicated to collaborative processes,
38 has acted unanimously to seek passage of federal legislation to advance land, resource, and
39 transportation solutions for the Central Wasatch Mountains;

40 WHEREAS, the Central Wasatch Commission, working with the Utah Department of
41 Transportation and all affected parties, seeks local, state, and federal solutions to the increasing
42 transportation issues limiting access and ability to enjoy the Central Wasatch Mountains;

43 WHEREAS, the primary stakeholders, working with the Central Wasatch Commission,
44 have arrived at a comprehensive approach and propose federal legislation that would:

- 45 • provide additional direction for the federal lands managed by the United
46 States Forest Service; and
- 47 • consolidate public and private ownership through land exchanges in
48 sensible realignments that protect public interests and promote private
49 interests;

50 WHEREAS, the work of the Central Wasatch Commission that is reflected in the
51 proposed federal legislation respects and supports private property rights and existing uses;

52 WHEREAS, a new federal lands designation established by Congress would:

- 53 • add to existing land and resource protections;
- 54 • balance developed and undeveloped areas and users;
- 55 • protect invaluable water sources and the unique Central Wasatch
56 Mountains environment and recreational uses; and
- 57 • reflect the local desires agreed upon by all the locally-elected officials;

58 and

59 WHEREAS, in accordance with legislative appropriations and direction, the Utah
60 Department of Transportation and the Central Wasatch Commission are determining
61 approaches to address the transportation crisis in Little Cottonwood Canyon and Big
62 Cottonwood Canyon in conjunction with other transportation solutions on the Wasatch Front
63 and Wasatch Back through an Environmental Impact Statement and Transportation Corridor
64 Action Plan:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
66 Governor concurring therein, reflecting the will of local communities and many interests, urge
67 the President of the United States, Congress, and Utah's congressional delegation to pass
68 legislation reflecting the work of the Central Wasatch Commission and the years of
69 collaborative effort resulting from the Mountain Accord.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central Wasatch Commission, Utah
71 Department of Transportation, Utah Transit Authority, and local and federal governments
72 immediately implement solutions to transportation issues in the Central Wasatch Mountains
73 that will address traffic congestion effectively and efficiently and integrate long-term
74 approaches.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central Wasatch Commission continue to work
76 with all private and public interests to collaboratively move forward with locally-based
77 approaches that will serve the short- and long-term needs and desires of local communities and
78 the state of Utah.