

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING COOPERATIVE  
ACTION REGARDING NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution encourages the President to work cooperatively with the state's congressional delegation, the state's legislative and executive branches, local elected officials, and tribes on action regarding national monuments.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ outlines the state's stewardship of lands;
- ▶ addresses the federal government's creation of federal monuments in the state; and
- ▶ encourages the Biden administration to work with leaders to create permanent

solutions to the issues raised by federal monuments.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, the state is a wise steward of the land and is committed to conservation and continued recreational access for hunters, anglers, campers, and other recreationists, as well as allowing for productive uses, including agriculture, timber production, and energy and natural resource development, and traditional/historical uses like those of tribes;

WHEREAS, Utah, local people, and tribes value the artifacts and scenic areas that are



28 worthy of monument designation;

29 WHEREAS, Utah was the first state to provide for resource land management plans --  
30 signaling Utah's commitment to thoughtful management;

31 WHEREAS, the state and federal government share interests, along with the tribes, in  
32 preserving sensitive areas and artifacts and in creating certainty in managing national  
33 monuments;

34 WHEREAS, for an extended period of time, Utah has been the center of controversial  
35 and divisive unilateral national monument decisions;

36 WHEREAS, although Utah's congressional delegation and state and local leaders  
37 publicly opposed the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument, in December 2016,  
38 President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument, limiting public access to 1.35  
39 million acres in San Juan County and affecting over 100,000 acres of land held by the School  
40 and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to which Utah should have a legal right to access;

41 WHEREAS, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was created in 1996 by  
42 President Clinton without input or support from Garfield or Kane counties, their citizens, their  
43 public officials, or the state and without consideration of roads, local economies, customs,  
44 culture, and heritage;

45 WHEREAS, the designation of lands as monuments has reduced the ability of the state  
46 to actively manage for land health issues such as vegetation treatments, erosion control, water  
47 management, grazing management, wildlife management activities, and invasive plant control;

48 WHEREAS, national monuments create a tourism economy that fails to offset the  
49 negative impacts of reduced natural resources related jobs;

50 WHEREAS, Utah has an interest in protecting areas of interest in a way that also  
51 protects the economy, development, custom, culture, heritage, educational opportunities,  
52 health, and well-being of local communities;

53 WHEREAS, both Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears  
54 National Monument were reduced in size in 2017, and new management plans have been  
55 written accordingly;

56 WHEREAS, President Biden issued an executive order on his first day in office calling  
57 for a study of enlarging both monuments;

58 WHEREAS, changing the size of these national monuments every four to eight years

59 does not help anyone, particularly those whose life and livelihood are tied to the land;

60 WHEREAS, the nation, state, and tribes will benefit from a unified effort to address  
61 management of Utah's land;

62 WHEREAS, the only way to provide long-term stable management solutions is through  
63 federal legislation;

64 WHEREAS, legislation has the advantage of being able to provide solutions that a  
65 Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act cannot, such as funding for education,  
66 interpretation, and enforcement;

67 WHEREAS, a legislative solution allows more innovative solutions with the approval  
68 of local governments, tribes, and interested groups;

69 WHEREAS, the state legislature can work cooperatively with the federal delegation on  
70 the details of legislation better than the state legislature can be represented in a presidential  
71 action; and

72 WHEREAS, the state desires to find a collaborative, broadly supported, and long-term  
73 solution to the question of national monuments in Utah, specifically Grand Staircase-Escalante  
74 and Bears Ears National Monuments:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Utah, the  
76 Governor concurring therein, encourages President Biden to work with Utah's congressional  
77 delegation, the state's legislative and executive branches, local elected officials in Utah, and the  
78 tribes to develop a consensus product related to national monuments, including a permanent  
79 solution approved by Congress.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Utah's  
81 congressional delegation of the state and the President of the United States.