SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

Resolution

Joint Resolution Opposing Transfer of Public Lands to the State of Utah

- WHEREAS, federal natural public lands are treasured open spaces individuals and families value as vital habitat for wildlife, and for generations have been used for personal enjoyment to camp, hike, hunt, fish, and rejuvenate; and
- **WHEREAS**, residents of Salt Lake City escape from their daily routines by visiting our public lands to spend quality time with families and friends and enjoy activities and natural lands not available in urban areas; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Utah is spending millions of taxpayer dollars in an effort to transfer ownership from the federal government to the State of Utah; and
- **WHEREAS**, newly introduced State legislation strongly foreshadows the State's intent to privatize our public lands upon gaining ownership; and
- WHEREAS, local newspapers, including the Ogden Standard Examiner and Deseret News have editorialized that such a public land transfer is, "in some regards, a roll of the dice" and a "symbolic gesture with significant risk to Utah taxpayers;" and
- whereas, several Utah economists determined, in a citizen-funded economic analysis, that the Transfer of Public Lands Act ties our future to the historically volatile price of oil. In order for the economic numbers to add up in Utah's favor, the United States must voluntarily give up its 50 percent share of royalties from oil and gas revenues generated by public lands; and
- WHEREAS, the Utah State Constitution (Article 3, Section 1, Second Clause) says "The people inhabiting this State do affirm and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries hereof;" and
- WHEREAS, University of Utah legal scholars and the State Legislature's own legal counsel have determined that the Transfer of Public Lands Act has "a high probability of being declared unconstitutional."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City stand in opposition, as the Capital City of Utah, to the transfer of our shared public open lands that belong to all Americans. We urge the Utah State Legislature and Governor Herbert to stop spending taxpayer funds on further actions related to a transfer of public lands to the State.

Ralph Becker

Salt Lake City Mayor

James Rogers, Vice Chair

Salt Lake City Council Member, District One

Stan Penfold, District Three Salt Lake City Council Member

Charlie Luke, District Six Salt Lake City Council Member Luke Garrott, Chair

Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four

Kyle LaMalfa, District Two Salt Lake City Council Member

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Erin Mendenhall, District Five Salt Lake City Council Member

Lisa Adams, District Seven Salt Lake City Council Member