

**Representative Cheryl K. Acton** proposes the following substitute bill:

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT**

**OF A STATEWIDE ANTI-LITTERING CAMPAIGN**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Cheryl K. Acton**

Senate Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution addresses littering in Utah and encourages the creation of a statewide, long-term anti-littering campaign.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ recognizes the impact that littering has on our communities and environment;

▶ addresses the benefits to implementing a statewide, long-term anti-littering

campaign;

▶ recognizes the opportunity to inform manufacturers, distributors, packagers, and

retailers on ways they can help prevent littering; and

▶ encourages the Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources,

Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Association of Counties, and the

Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with area experts, interested stakeholders,

regional partners, and the federal government to explore the creation of a statewide,

long-term anti-littering campaign.

**Special Clauses:**

None



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

WHEREAS, Utah is universally recognized as a place rich in natural scenic beauty, with wetlands, forests, and alpine and desert biomes;

WHEREAS, Utah is home to over three million residents and more than 600 species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, and annually hosts millions of visitors, all of whom would benefit from renewed dedication to the cleanliness of our lands and waterways;

WHEREAS, trash, from plastic and paper cups, drink bottles and cans, snack wrappers, straws, plastic shopping bags, and other consumer waste line many of our streets and highways, lakes and rivers, and is scattered across parks, open spaces, and private properties creating visual blight, habitat disruption, and other harmful effects on humans, domestic animals, and wildlife;

WHEREAS, trash on the streets can clog storm water drains, exacerbate street flooding during storm events, choke waterways, and create other harmful impacts and pollution in rivers and lakes;

WHEREAS, the approximate annual cost to clean up litter on state highways in Utah has increased each year between 2016 and 2020 with the costs for 2020 being in excess of \$2.5 million and these costs do not include similar costs for local highways and will likely continue to increase as the population in Utah increases if Utah does not pursue active measures to address littering;

WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Resources has found that littering on public lands is becoming a problem;

WHEREAS, the environmental cleanup of litter, once it has entered the storm water system, is far more costly than the preventive efforts through civic engagement and public awareness campaigns;

WHEREAS, a long-term anti-litter campaign provides a meaningful opportunity to clean up Utah's land and water;

WHEREAS, because a large percentage of Utah is federally managed public lands, the participation of federal agencies in the process, including providing financial support, would benefit the implementation of an anti-littering campaign;

WHEREAS, Utah has not had a coordinated anti-littering campaign since the 1990s -

57 the "Don't Waste Utah" campaign;

58 WHEREAS, over the 30 continuous years since its launch, the "Don't Mess With  
59 Texas" anti-litter campaign has become an iconic expression of community and culture with  
60 signs dotting the highways and byways of the state, with friendly community "Trash-Off" clean  
61 up competitions across the state, and with businesses proudly brandishing the "Don't Mess  
62 With Texas" brand alongside their own;

63 WHEREAS, for the past four decades, New Mexico's anti-litter campaign, "Toss No  
64 Mas," has evolved through local and regional movements in many New Mexico communities  
65 to receive statewide support for the initiative;

66 WHEREAS, working unitedly for a clean environment is a solution in which every  
67 resident and visitor to Utah can participate;

68 WHEREAS, the impacts of litter particularly are not just about cleanliness and  
69 beautification, but have an important environmental effect as well;

70 WHEREAS, there is tremendous opportunity to work in partnership with  
71 manufacturers, distributors, packagers, and retailers to address the sources of much of our litter,  
72 exploring innovative and creative ways to reduce single-use disposable packaging and  
73 containers; and

74 WHEREAS, a long-term anti-littering campaign will increase pride in Utah by  
75 encouraging residents and visitors to be mindful of litter and its effects:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
77 Governor concurring therein, encourages the Department of Transportation, Department of  
78 Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Association of Counties,  
79 and the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with area experts, interested stakeholders,  
80 regional partners, and the federal government to explore the creation of a statewide, long-term  
81 anti-littering campaign that addresses littering by residents and visitors and the negative impact  
82 that littering has on our environment, communities, and health.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department  
84 of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental  
85 Quality, the Utah Association of Counties, and the Utah League of Cities and Towns.