

1           **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT**  
2                           **OF A STATEWIDE ANTI-LITTERING CAMPAIGN**

3   2021 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5   **Chief Sponsor: Cheryl K. Acton**

6   Senate Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

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

12   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13           This resolution:

- 14           ▶ recognizes the impact that littering has on our communities and environment;
- 15           ▶ addresses the benefits to implementing a statewide, long-term anti-littering  
16   campaign;
- 17           ▶ recognizes the opportunity to inform manufacturers, distributors, packagers, and  
18   retailers on ways they can help prevent littering; and
- 19           ▶ encourages the Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources,  
20   Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Association of Counties, and the  
21   Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with area experts and interested  
22   stakeholders to explore the creation of a statewide, long-term anti-littering  
23   campaign.

24   **Special Clauses:**

25           None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

53 WHEREAS, Utah has not had a coordinated anti-littering campaign since the 1990s -  
54 the "Don't Waste Utah" campaign;

55 WHEREAS, over the 30 continuous years since its launch, the "Don't Mess With  
56 Texas" anti-litter campaign has become an iconic expression of community and culture with  
57 signs dotting the highways and byways of the state, with friendly community "Trash-Off" clean

58 up competitions across the state, and with businesses proudly brandishing the "Don't Mess  
59 With Texas" brand alongside their own;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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