1	**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE**
2	**PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE**
3	**CORRIDORS**
4	2020 GENERAL SESSION
5	STATE OF UTAH
6	**Chief Sponsor: Mike Schultz**
7	Senate Sponsor: _____

8

9 **LONG TITLE**

10 **General Description:**

11   This resolution relates to protecting wildlife and improving motorist safety.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13   This resolution:

14   ▸ acknowledges that healthy wildlife and landscapes are crucial to Utah's quality of

15 life and economy;

16   ▸ acknowledges that protecting Ĥ➔ **fish and** ⬅Ĥ wildlife corridors will improve herd

16a vitality of big

17 game species Ĥ➔ **and preserve connectivity of fisheries** ⬅Ĥ ;

18   ▸ acknowledges and respects the rights of private landowners;

19   ▸ acknowledges that the United States is losing biodiversity;

20   ▸ acknowledges that wildlife-vehicle collisions pose serious safety risks to motorists

21 and wildlife and that states, including Utah, that implement wildlife crossings to

22 improve motorist safety and protect wildlife corridors have seen a decrease in

23 wildlife vehicle collisions;

24   ▸ acknowledges current efforts to protect wildlife corridors and road safety;

25   ▸ acknowledges the need for the protection and restoration of migratory routes for

26 wildlife through the Division of Wildlife Resources' Utah's Wildlife Migration

27 Initiative;

H.C.R. 13

28   ▸   acknowledges that the federal government has initiated programs and awarded

29   grants to protect wildlife corridors for big game animals;

30   ▸   expresses the state's continued support for Ĥ➔ **fish and** ←Ĥ wildlife corridors and road

30a   safety; and

31   ▸   encourages studies related to wildlife migration corridors within the state.

32   **Special Clauses:**

33   None

34   ═══

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

36   WHEREAS, healthy plant and animal life are necessary to the quality of life in Utah

37   and to maintain vibrant and balanced landscapes to support outdoor recreational activities such

38   as hunting, fishing, animal watching, and similar activities;

39   WHEREAS, the Office of Outdoor Recreation reports that outdoor recreation

40   contributes more than $12.3 billion to the economy, employs more than 110,000 people, and is

41   the primary driver behind the tourism industry;

42   WHEREAS, protecting Ĥ➔ **fish and** ←Ĥ wildlife Ĥ➔ **migration** ←Ĥ corridors has been

42a   shown to improve herd vitality of

43   big game species Ĥ➔ [that are] **, and preserving connectivity is crucial to the long-term**

43a   **resiliency of Utah's fisheries, both being** ←Ĥ critical in supporting Utah's outdoor recreation

43b   economy;

44   WHEREAS, the rights of private landowners are recognized and respected and private

45   landowners should not be forced to participate in any state or local initiatives regarding the

46   protection of wildlife corridors, but instead the state and local governments should incentivize

47   private landowners to participate;

48   WHEREAS, 1 in 5 species is at risk of extinction in the United States and Utah is home

49   to many threatened or endangered species and to sensitive species;

50   WHEREAS, over the 14-year period from 1992 thru 2005, the Utah Highway Patrol

51   reported to the Utah Department of Transportation's Traffic and Safety Office that:

52   •   nearly 30,500 wildlife-vehicle collisions occurred during that period,

53   most reported being deer, elk, and moose;

54   •   the number of reported injury accidents during this period was 2,030;

55   and

56   •   the injury accidents include 18 reported deaths due to accidents with

57   wildlife;

58   WHEREAS, states, including Utah, that implement wildlife crossings to improve

59   motorist safety and protect wildlife corridors have seen a decrease in wildlife vehicle collisions

60   by 40% to 90%;

61   WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Utah Department of

62   Transportation through the creation of a Wildlife Conflict Prevention Team are incorporating

63   wildlife migration patterns, crash data, and wildlife carcass data in highway corridor planning

64   to improve roadway safety for wildlife and motorists;

65   WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Transportation continues to install wildlife

66   fencing, has constructed a wildlife overpass and 50 wildlife underpasses statewide, continues to

67   identify potential locations for additional wildlife crossings, and has implemented new

68   monitoring technology to assess the effectiveness of existing crossings and better warn

69   motorists when wildlife is present;

70   WHEREAS, there is a need for the protection and restoration of migratory routes for

71   wildlife through the Division of Wildlife Resources' Utah's Wildlife Migration Initiative; and

72   WHEREAS, the current administration has initiated programs and awarded grants to

73   protect wildlife corridors for big game animals through United States Department of Interior,

74   Secretarial Order 3362:

75   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

76   Governor concurring therein, urges continued state investment in wildlife connectivity and

77   encourages state and local governments to adopt policies to protect and restore

77a   Ĥ➤ **intact fish and** ⬅Ĥ wildlife

78   connectivity and migration corridors Ĥ➤ **and promote road safety** ⬅Ĥ .

79   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage the

80   Division of Wildlife Resources, universities, and others with expertise in the wildlife area to

81   study where wildlife migration corridors exist within the state and how best to protect Ĥ➤ **and**

81a   **enhance** ⬅Ĥ these

82   corridors.

83   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah League

84   of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties and that these entities be requested

85   to provide access to the resolution to the relevant planning commissions and highway

86   authorities.