

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON NATIVE AMERICAN  
RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES GRANT**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Michael E. Noel**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution encourages state acquisition of the Bears Ears National Monument.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages the state of Utah to seek acquisition of the Bears Ears National Monument through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and
- ▶ supports a governance and management plan that includes southwestern Native American tribes.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, Bears Ears are twin buttes in southeastern Utah of San Juan County, that rise 8,700 feet above sea level and resemble the ears of a bear emerging from the horizon;

WHEREAS, the human history in the Bears Ears area dates ~~as far~~ back ~~as 8,500~~ **thousands of** years,

and the area offers cultural, scientific, and historic importance for several southwestern tribes;

WHEREAS, famed Navajo headman K'aayéliee was born around 1800 near the Bears Ears twin buttes, as well as renowned 19th century Navajo leader, "Hastiin Ch'ihaajin"



28 Manuelito;

29 WHEREAS, the Bears Ears region is profoundly sacred to several Native American  
30 tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah  
31 Ouray, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe;

32 WHEREAS, on December 28, 2016, President Obama designated the Bears Ears twin  
33 buttes and surrounding area as a national monument;

34 WHEREAS, Sec. 212, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, of the Federal Land Policy  
35 and Management Act of 1976, authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or  
36 public purposes to state and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations;

37 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is willing and able to apply under Sec. 212, Recreation  
38 and Public Purposes Act, to purchase or lease the public land that is occupied by the  
39 recently-created Bears Ears National Monument;

40 WHEREAS, the state of Utah, upon securing the public land in the Bears Ears National  
41 Monument area, would work cooperatively with local elected officials, the local Navajo Nation  
42 chapter and other southwestern tribes, to structure a governance and management coalition plan  
43 that provides local and state stewardship over the Bears Ears area; and

44 WHEREAS, this resolution does not supersede the intentions of H.C.R 11, Urging the  
45 President to Rescind the Bears Ears National Monument Designation, but together, these  
46 resolutions are a testament of the federal government's overreach when it designated 1.35  
47 million acres in San Juan County as a national monument:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
49 Governor concurring therein, encourages the necessary steps to be taken to acquire the land  
50 designated as the Bears Ears National Monument through the Recreation and Public Purposes  
51 Act for public purposes.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that management and stewardship over the land would  
53 be a joint coalition effort that includes southwestern Native American tribes, the Utah Division  
54 of Indian Affairs, local elected officials, and the local Navajo Nation chapter surrounding the  
55 Bears Ears area.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
57 the United States, Utah's congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Department of the  
58 Interior, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**