

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT OF UTAH'S WATER QUALITY**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Timothy D. Hawkes

Senate Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for managing wastewater treatment in a holistic and sustainable manner that allows for cost benefit analyses and contemplates ecological impacts associated with treatment.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages water quality standards to be based on the best available research and science to improve and protect Utah's water quality;
- ▶ encourages the Division of Water Quality, stakeholders, and local elected officials to conduct water quality research on a mutually agreed collaborative process; and
- ▶ urges the Division of Water Quality to work in partnership with the publicly owned treatment works and local elected officials to develop the best available science and research regarding Utah's unique water systems.

Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, the state of Utah has delegated authority from the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, the state of Utah has a robust and protective statutory and regulatory framework to oversee Utah's water quality;

WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality has the responsibility to protect Utah's water, air, and land;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, and the Jordan River have unique water quality constraints and each body of water has qualities that add value to Utah's economy, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, the publicly owned treatment works are part of the solution to water pollution and play a vital role in assuring that wastewater is treated before discharge;

WHEREAS, the state Division of Water Quality has flexibility in setting standards for nutrients and the Environmental Protection Agency supports adaptive management;

WHEREAS, the setting of water quality standards should be done under consideration of the effectiveness of the standards to improve water quality, water quantity, and the cost burden to Utah's citizens;

WHEREAS, standards should be set based on the best available research and science and such standards should have an acceptable level of certainty to improve and protect Utah's water quality;

WHEREAS, water quality research that informs policy should follow standard scientific protocols for study development, data collection and management, modeling, and analyses;

WHEREAS, water quality research should be conducted in a collaborative process among the Division of Water Quality, stakeholders, and local elected officials, and should be conducted using a mutually agreed upon collaborative process; and

WHEREAS, the cost of complying with potential new standards could be high for the publicly owned treatment works and could impact Utah's communities if compliance requires process upgrades or plant facility rebuilds, making it paramount that Utah's elected officials understand and participate in the decision-making process as appropriate:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, finds that having the Division of Water Quality work in partnership with the publicly owned treatment works and local elected officials to develop the

58 best available science and research regarding Utah's unique water systems is of paramount
59 importance.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that regulations to protect Utah's water quality should
61 weigh water quality benefits against any resulting negative impact to Utah's land, water, or air
62 resources.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local communities and the publicly owned
64 treatment works are partners in addressing water quality through regulation, funding, and
65 oversight.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the publicly owned treatment works and the
67 Division of Water Quality need to establish mutually agreeable processes for conducting
68 research.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that future standards and permit requirements should be
70 based on the best research and information produced from these joint processes.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when the costs of compliance with proposed
72 standards are significant, the Legislature should be informed of the prospective costs and
73 benefits of that compliance.