

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UTAH'S**  
2                   **INTERCONNECTED SKI AND SNOWBOARD INDUSTRY**

3                                   2012 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser**

6                                   House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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8                   **LONG TITLE**

9                   **General Description:**

10                   This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses support for  
11                   interconnection of the seven Salt Lake County and Summit County ski resorts.

12                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

13                   This resolution:

14                   ▶ expresses support for low-impact interconnection of the seven resorts in Salt Lake  
15                   County and Summit County to enhance the ski and snowboard resort industry's  
16                   contribution to Utah's economy, jobs, and tax base;

17                   ▶ urges interconnection of the Salt Lake County and Summit County ski resorts using  
18                   best environmental practices;

19                   ▶ supports thorough consideration of multiple uses in the Wasatch Mountains in the  
20                   evaluation of resort interconnections;

21                   ▶ urges meaningful and balanced public involvement in any associated planning and  
22                   decision-making processes regarding resort interconnections; and

23                   ▶ supports a comprehensive set of solutions to transportation problems in the Wasatch  
24                   Mountains, including short term and long term alternatives, potential year-round  
25                   utilization and support of Utah's vibrant human-powered outdoor recreation.

26                   **Special Clauses:**

27                   None

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

30 WHEREAS, tourism is one of Utah's major "export industries" that sells services or  
31 products to destination visitors and brings money into the state to support our local economy  
32 and provide jobs for current and future Utahns;

33 WHEREAS, over 20 million people visited the state of Utah in 2010, spending over  
34 \$6.5 billion, or 5.5% of Utah's gross domestic product, contributing over \$840 million in state  
35 and local taxes, and sustaining as much as 10% of the jobs in the state;

36 WHEREAS, the ski and snowboard industry is a major contributor to Utah's tourism  
37 industry, contributing over \$1.2 billion to the state's economy as a result of over 4 million skier  
38 days, and growth in the ski and snowboard industry will bring additional spending, revenue,  
39 and jobs to the state;

40 WHEREAS, tourists who ski or snowboard in Utah spend money on lift tickets,  
41 equipment rentals, hotels, restaurants, car rentals, and other matters, and this money circulates  
42 through the economy, supporting over 20,000 local jobs;

43 WHEREAS, the seven ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County are all  
44 located in close proximity to one another, offering the opportunity to connect these resorts, an  
45 opportunity that leading competing winter tourism states do not have;

46 WHEREAS, connecting the ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County will  
47 create a skiing experience unavailable anywhere else in North America and reposition Utah's  
48 ski and snowboard experience to be even more competitive and attractive relative to other  
49 states, leading to increased tourist visitation and spending, which will in turn lead to an  
50 increase in revenue and jobs;

51 WHEREAS, it is recognized that Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are critical  
52 watersheds from which more than 500,000 Utah residents, businesses, and visitors throughout  
53 Salt Lake County receive their drinking water, and that best management practices would be  
54 required in any potential resort connections;

55 WHEREAS, the balance of multiple uses in the Wasatch Mountains, including  
56 developed recreation, such as skiing and picnicking, and dispersed recreation, such as hiking,  
57 mountain biking, and back country skiing, are highly valued by residents, visitors, and

58 businesses in Utah and contribute significantly to the state's economy and quality of life;

59 WHEREAS, the roads to ski areas in Summit County and Salt Lake County are  
60 congested during certain times of the year, and studies should be conducted by numerous  
61 federal, state, local, and private sector entities to comprehensively evaluate alternatives to solve  
62 transportation problems;

63 WHEREAS, connecting the ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County will  
64 improve access to the ski resorts and allow the unique opportunity of skiing at multiple resorts  
65 in a single day;

66 WHEREAS, connecting the ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County is an  
67 issue of state concern because the connection will cross county boundaries, have a  
68 tremendously positive impact on the state economy, and may contribute positively to state  
69 roadways and airsheds;

70 WHEREAS, connecting ski resorts will allow the winter sports industry to grow while  
71 making the most efficient and sustainable use of ski terrain, roads, facilities, and parking lots;

72 WHEREAS, connecting the ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County may  
73 require review and approval of permits by Summit County, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City,  
74 Park City, the town of Alta, and the United States Forest Service;

75 WHEREAS, the public will be engaged in meaningful and balanced ways in any  
76 potential decision-making processes regarding resort interconnections, and these processes will  
77 be open and transparent;

78 WHEREAS, many skiers drive from Summit County to ski in the Cottonwood  
79 Canyons, or from one Cottonwood Canyon resort to ski in Summit County or at another  
80 Cottonwood Canyon resort, contributing to congestion on canyon roads;

81 WHEREAS, connecting the ski resorts in Summit County and Salt Lake County will  
82 decrease traffic on congested canyon roads and lead to cleaner air and water by reducing  
83 automobile-related pollution, and provide emergency evacuation options for Big and Little  
84 Cottonwood canyons;

85 WHEREAS, the 1988 Governor's Task Force on Interconnect concluded that

86 interconnecting the Wasatch ski resorts "would provide a substantial boost to Utah's ski  
87 industry and have a positive influence on the state's economy"; and

88 WHEREAS, the Wasatch Mountains Inter-Resort Transportation Study, completed by  
89 Mountainland Association of Governments in 1990, found that connecting the Wasatch resorts  
90 "hold[s] the promise of substantial public benefits in the form of reductions in automobile  
91 traffic on congested canyon roadways, watershed and environmental pollution abatement,  
92 increased slow-season occupancy of existing facilities, and the potential for future economic  
93 expansion":

94 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
95 Governor concurring therein, support connecting the seven ski resorts in Summit County and  
96 Salt Lake County with an inter-resort transportation system based on sound research and  
97 balanced public input, and careful evaluation of its impact on transportation, the economy, job  
98 creation, the environment, multiple uses, and visitor experience.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage Summit  
100 County, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Park City, the town of Alta, and the United States  
101 Forest Service to fairly consider the benefits of connecting the various resorts and  
102 expeditiously approve a low-impact inter-resort transportation system based on appropriate  
103 analysis and balanced public input.

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Summit  
105 County Council, the Summit County Manager, the mayor of Park City, the Park City Council,  
106 the Salt Lake County Council, the town of Alta, the Mayor of Salt Lake County, the Salt Lake  
107 City Council, the Mayor of Salt Lake City, the Chief of the National Forest Service, the  
108 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisor, the Speaker of the United States House of  
109 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and all members of the Utah  
110 Congressional Delegation.