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S.C.R. 3

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTING UTAH'S**  
2                                   **RARE EARTH MINERAL POSITION**

3                                   2022 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: David P. Hinkins**

6                                   House Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

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8                   **LONG TITLE**

9                   **General Description:**

10                   This resolution recognizes the state of Utah's unique position as an essential source for  
11 critical minerals and encourages cooperation between state and federal stakeholders to  
12 take full advantage of the essential critical minerals and rare earth elements found in the  
13 state of Utah.

14                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

15                   This resolution:

16                   ▶ recognizes Utah as a known source of 28 of the 35 current federally listed critical  
17 minerals necessary for national defense and economic prosperity;

18                   ▶ recognizes that Utah consistently ranks as a top 10 state for mining with a 2020  
19 estimated \$3.7 billion in mining production value;

20                   ▶ recognizes that renewable energy production is increasing across the state and the  
21 country and there is a heightened need for critical minerals, rare earth elements, and  
22 many other minerals, including copper, to meet the infrastructure, collection,  
23 distribution, and transmission requirements to foster a reliable and affordable  
24 energy economy;

25                   ▶ recognizes that critical minerals and traditional mineral resources are also used for a  
26 variety of other essential purposes beyond energy production, including  
27 manufacturing, technology, defense, aerospace, fertilizer, and medical application;  
28 and

29                   ▶ resolves that the state of Utah and relevant federal agencies work together to

30 promote national security, economic prosperity, and sustainability through efficient promotion  
31 and utilization of the many resources of the state of Utah.

32 **Special Clauses:**

33 None



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

36 WHEREAS, the population of the state of Utah is increasing and there exists an urgent  
37 need to develop additional collection, distribution, and transmission infrastructure to ensure a  
38 reliable and affordable energy future;

39 WHEREAS, President Joseph R. Biden's Executive Order 14017 on America's Supply  
40 Chains identifies critical minerals and rare earth elements as essential to the American  
41 economy;

42 WHEREAS, the Biden Administration's Report on Building Resilient Supply Chains  
43 finds that the United States must secure reliable and sustainable supplies of critical minerals  
44 and metals to ensure resilience across United States' manufacturing and defense needs, and do  
45 so in a manner consistent with America's labor, environmental, equity and other values;

46 WHEREAS, Utah is an all-of-the-above energy state;

47 WHEREAS, fostering an innovative traditional and renewable energy economy is a  
48 growing trend with widespread support within the state and across the nation;

49 WHEREAS, approximately 23% of Utah, or 12,628,600 acres, receives the highest  
50 level of protection available as national parks, wilderness areas, national monuments, and other  
51 highly restricted federal lands;

52 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is a state consisting of approximately 71% of Utah or  
53 Utah's land area, over 38,578,390 acres as public lands;

54 WHEREAS, the state of Utah opposes landscape scale designations that limit access to  
55 public lands for energy development, mineral extraction, and other practices;

56 WHEREAS, access to public lands is needed in many cases for energy production and  
57 to obtain mineral resources required for infrastructure development;

58 WHEREAS, it is not possible or economically feasible to promote a renewable energy  
59 economy without the mining industry;

60 WHEREAS, Utah is a top ten state for mining with a 2020 estimated mineral  
61 production value of \$3.7 billion;

62 WHEREAS, the people of Utah have a long history of successful stewardship and  
63 reclamation over the state's resources;

64 WHEREAS, the federal government has established a list of critical minerals for  
65 national defense and economic prosperity;

66 WHEREAS, Utah has known sources of 28 of the 35 current federally listed critical  
67 mineral resources;

68 WHEREAS, Utah is the primary global provider of beryllium, the only domestic  
69 producer of magnesium metal, and one of only two states producing lithium;

70 WHEREAS, the Bingham Canyon Mine produces platinum, palladium, rhenium, and  
71 soon will produce tellurium from byproducts of copper, gold, and silver mining;

72 WHEREAS, the federal critical mineral list does not contain all mineral resources  
73 required to facilitate a renewable energy industry or infrastructure development;

74 WHEREAS, copper is Utah's most valuable metal commodity and is required for all  
75 energy projects and transmission infrastructure;

76 WHEREAS, uranium is readily available in Utah and uranium is now considered a fuel  
77 mineral and is consequently not eligible for listing under the federal list for critical minerals;  
78 and

79 WHEREAS, the combination of land access, mining, and energy development provide  
80 economic support for citizens of the state and allow for affordable energy resources:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
82 Governor concurring therein, expresses through this resolution the necessity of ensuring access  
83 to public lands, the continuation of the mineral extraction industry in Utah, and sustainable  
84 development of renewable energy on public lands and through the state of Utah.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor find that federal

86 designations of Utah's lands and waters, without state legislative approval, is hostile to state  
87 sovereignty, and can hinder the efforts of the state and federal agencies to promote national  
88 security and economic prosperity.

89           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor find that the state  
90 of Utah is a public land state that stands able and willing to promote mineral extraction and the  
91 development of energy resources, including renewable energy resources, for the citizens of  
92 Utah and other Americans.