

H.R. 5780, “Utah Public Lands Initiative Act”

Chairman Rob Bishop’s (R-UT) “Utah Public Lands Initiative Act,” which will bring resolution to some of the most challenging land disputes in Utah, is rooted in the belief that conservation and economic development can work hand in hand.

Over the last three years, Chairman Bishop, co-sponsor Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) and their staff held over 1,200 meetings to solicit feedback from Utahns. More than 65 detailed proposals were submitted by local governments, Native American tribes and other interested stakeholders, ultimately culminating in a single compromise bill. H.R. 5780 designates and exchanges certain federal and non-federal land in Utah for conservation, recreational, and economic development purposes in order to create land use certainty for local communities and land users. Under the bill, 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region will become permanently protected and 4.6 million acres of land will be designated for conservation purposes.

- **PROVIDES PERMANENT CONSERVATION:** Designates 4.6 million acres of Utah land for conservation purposes.
- **EMPOWERS TRIBES:** Provides Indian tribes and Native residents in Utah with unprecedented influence in the management of their lands, unlike a unilateral National Monument designation under the Antiquities Act.
- **GUARANTEES RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:** Designates 1.15 million acres for new recreational opportunities.
- **BENEFITS PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Consolidates 311,000 acres of land for the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to generate significant revenue from energy and mineral production for Utah’s public school system.
- **INCLUDES LOCAL INPUT FROM ALL SIDES:** Developed through a locally-driven effort that included over 1,200 meetings and 50 on-the-ground field trips with the public, garnering input and support from stakeholders.
- **SPURS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Resolves long-standing land disputes to maximize investment certainty in Utah’s rural communities.