

RESOLUTION NO. R-2017-2143

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS AND URGING CAUTION
REGARDING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OIL AND GAS LEASES
NEAR ZION NATIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) is currently accepting comments on a draft environmental impact statement (“Draft EIS”) that considers offering three parcels near Zion National Park for oil and gas leasing;

WHEREAS Washington County generally encourages responsible natural resource development and economic development in the county including appropriate oil and gas leases;

WHEREAS, Zion National Park is an internationally recognized showpiece for Washington County and for Utah;

WHEREAS, the scenic nature of the area surrounding Zion National Park contributes to the beauty, economy, and recreational values of Washington County;

WHEREAS, allowing oil and gas development along the scenic highways enjoyed by residents and visitors alike may not be the best use of the resources in that area;

WHEREAS, one proposed lease would allow for oil and gas extraction near a proposed water reserve and several newly drilled drinking water wells;

WHEREAS, BLM is accepting comments on the Draft EIS until February 10, 2017;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the residents of Washington County for the BLM to make a well-informed and cautious decision regarding whether to allow the leases in our county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH, that Washington County expresses reservation on oil and gas extraction near Zion National Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Washington County opposes and calls on the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to exercise caution and ensure that any oil and gas leases on land near Zion National Park be conducted in a way that will not negatively impact tourism, traffic flow, or water resources in the area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county staff is authorized to file an official comment with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in accordance with the positions

outlined in this Resolution.

VOTED UPON AND PASSED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.

WASHINGTON COUNTY



VICTOR IVERSON, Chair
Washington County Commission

ATTEST:



Kim M. Hafen
Washington County Clerk-Auditor

Commissioner Iverson voted Aye
Commissioner Renstrom voted Aye
Commissioner Cox voted Aye

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy Washington County Attorney