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## University of Utah Research Park Act

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The Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP Act) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey up to 640 acres of federal land for public purposes. In 1968, the University of Utah applied for undeveloped tracts of land and stated their intention to use it for academic expansion and development of a research park. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the university's application and issued the land patent. The patent required the university to "comply with the provisions of an approved management plan of development and management," filed with BLM in 1968, "or with any revision approved by the Secretary." The patent goes on to state that if "the lands are devoted to a use other than that for which the lands were conveyed, without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, title shall revert to the United States." If the university wishes to retain the land, the patent provided the option to "pay the United States an amount equal to the difference between the price paid for the land," which was \$2.50 per acre, "and 50 percent of the fair market value of the patented lands" in 1968 plus interest.

Since 1968, the university has built and operated a research park in the belief that it is in full compliance with the terms of the land conveyance. After decades of frequent communication with the university, BLM has recently raised concerns that the activities previously authorized, including a research park, may not be allowed under the R&PP Act. This legislation confirms a university research park as a valid use of conveyed land under the R&PP Act, removing the legal uncertainty for the university.

### **Bill Specifics**

This legislation confirms the use by the University of Utah of 593 acres of land as a university research park as valid purposes under the R&PP Act.