

## Document 1: Constitution Cover Letter

*Source: Part of a letter written on March 27, 1856 by J. M. Grant, president of Utah's Constitutional Convention, to the President of the United States and Congress introducing Utah's proposed Constitution and Utah's application for statehood. Revised using ChatGPT for easier reading.*

*Hint: This letter gives indirect evidence. If the Utahns are saying "we are loyal" that gives some evidence that outsiders are probably saying that they are not loyal.*

A group of representatives met in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, and worked together to write and agree on a new constitution. Their goal was to help Utah become a state in the United States. They politely ask that the people they've sent to Washington, D.C. be welcomed, that the new constitution be accepted, and that Congress take steps during its current session to make Utah a free and independent state in the United States.

The constitution they created supports equal rights and follows the same ideas as other state constitutions. Utah's loyalty to the United States has been tested in many ways, and it has always stayed strong—and they hope it always will.

They have made fair and helpful laws that protect everyone's rights equally, whether they live in Utah or are just passing through.

They understand that in a free country, people should be able to choose their own leaders, make their own laws, and govern themselves—so long as they follow the U.S. Constitution and laws, which they plan to do.

Because of all this, they strongly and respectfully ask that Utah be allowed to join the country as a free and independent state, equal to all the other states that make up the United States, whose motto is "E Pluribus Unum" (which means "Out of many, one").

### *Original*

Delegates in convention assembled in Great Salt Lake City, Utah territory, having formed and unanimously adopted a constitution, with a view to the admission of Utah into the Union as a state, ... most respectfully represent that it is the unanimous and earnest desire of the people of this territory that their delegates be favorably received, that the constitution in their charge meet your cordial approval, and that steps be taken during the present session of Congress, for the admission of Utah it's a free and sovereign state, in the great confederacy of our Republic....

The constitution which will be presented for your consideration is unexceptionable in its features of Republicanism and equal rights, following strictly in the channel of the constitution of other

states. The loyalty of Utah has been variously, and most thoroughly tested, and has ever proved pure, even as we trust it ever will. ...

We have enacted good and wholesome laws, guaranteeing, and protecting equally the constitutional and just rights and privileges of all classes of residence, and of those traveling through our borders. ... Aware that the genius of our free institutions, most justly extends to the governed the right of electing their own rulers and officers, and of an acting their own laws and making all needful regulations not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, which we have no design, desire, or occasion for contravene therefore, to enable the people of the territory of Utah to better and more fully to exercise those governmental privileges, so dear to every American heart, and so obviously the right of all who dwell beneath the stars and stripes of our common country, we do most respectfully, earnestly, solicit the early admission of Utah as a free, sovereign, and independence, state, upon an equal footing with the states now forming that justly, renowned confederacy, whose motto is *E Pluribus Unum*.

*Original found at*

<https://archives.utah.gov/2021/01/04/utahs-road-to-statehood-125-years/>