

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 5—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to take certain actions concerning
federal public lands in Nevada. (BDR R-208)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to take
certain actions concerning federal public lands in Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls over
2 85 percent of the land in Nevada; and
3 WHEREAS, Nevada has an abundance of natural resources,
4 including vast areas of land suitable for raising livestock and for
5 conservation and general recreational use, large deposits of gold,
6 silver, copper and other minerals, and plentiful renewable resources,
7 including, without limitation, sun, wind and geothermal resources
8 that may be used to generate electricity; and
9 WHEREAS, Many of those renewable resources are located on
10 public lands managed and controlled by the Federal Government;
11 and
12 WHEREAS, Activities that occur on those public lands increase
13 the demand for services provided by the State of Nevada and local
14 governments in Nevada; and
15 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada and local governments in
16 Nevada are limited in their ability to collect taxes or other fees from
17 the Federal Government or from the users of public lands to fund
18 services provided by the State and local governments; and



1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government receives revenue from the
2 licensing and permitting of activities that occur on those public
3 lands, including mining, grazing livestock, general recreational use
4 and generating electricity from renewable resources; and

5 WHEREAS, In recent years, efforts have been made to curtail the
6 practice by the Federal Government of sharing a portion of that
7 revenue with the State of Nevada and local governments, including
8 curtailing the practice of sharing with the counties a portion of the
9 revenue derived from the lease of public lands and royalties from
10 the generation of electricity from geothermal resources; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent legislation introduced in the 111th and 112th
12 United States Congress would have, if enacted, required the
13 Secretary of the Interior to establish a leasing program for wind and
14 solar energy development on federal public lands; and

15 WHEREAS, Such legislation would also have required the
16 sharing of a portion of the revenue from the competitive leasing
17 program with the counties from which the revenue is derived,
18 thereby creating a beneficial and meaningful role for counties in
19 Nevada; and

20 WHEREAS, The members of the 113th Congress are now
21 considering the budget submitted by the United States Department
22 of the Interior for federal Fiscal Year 2014, and its possible effects
23 on the counties' share of royalties derived from the generation of
24 electricity from geothermal resources; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
26 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the
27 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress:

28 1. To ensure that the public lands in Nevada that are managed
29 and controlled by the Federal Government remain open and
30 accessible to multiple uses, such as raising livestock, mining,
31 conservation, general recreational use and the use of renewable
32 resources, including, without limitation, sun, wind and geothermal
33 resources that may be used to generate electricity; and

34 2. To enact legislation ensuring that the State of Nevada and
35 the affected local governments in Nevada receive a portion of the
36 revenue received by the Federal Government for activities
37 conducted on the federal public lands in Nevada and ensuring that
38 such sharing includes, without limitation, the continuation of federal
39 laws and policies whereby local governments receive appropriate
40 rents and royalties for activities which generate electricity from
41 geothermal resources; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
43 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
44 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the



- 1 Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the
- 2 Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further
- 3 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
- 4 passage.

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