

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

PREFILED JANUARY 30, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Expresses support for the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan developed by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the greater sage-grouse as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. (BDR R-480)

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.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan developed by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the greater sage-grouse as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

1 WHEREAS, The greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus*
2 *urophasianus*) is a species of bird that inhabits much of the
3 sagebrush habitat in Nevada as well as other western states; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2010, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
5 determined that the greater sage-grouse warranted listing as
6 endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of
7 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq., and a decision on this listing is
8 scheduled for September 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, The listing of the greater sage-grouse as an
10 endangered or threatened species would have a devastatingly



1 negative impact on Nevada’s land development, land use, water use,
2 mining, recreational activities and local economies; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States Secretary of the Interior
4 invited those states impacted by the potential listing of the greater
5 sage-grouse to develop state-specific regulatory mechanisms to
6 conserve the species; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2012, Governor Brian Sandoval strengthened the
8 State of Nevada’s commitment to sage-grouse conservation by
9 issuing Executive Order 2012-09, establishing the Governor’s
10 Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, which led to Executive
11 Order 2012-19, creating the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Nevada Legislature enacted the
13 provisions of Assembly Bill No. 461, which created the Sagebrush
14 Ecosystem Council within the State Department of Conservation
15 and Natural Resources and required the Council to establish and
16 carry out strategies for managing the greater sage-grouse and
17 sagebrush ecosystems in this State; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2014, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council directed
19 the preparation of the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse
20 Conservation Plan, which combines the best available scientific
21 information and stakeholder input into a conservation and
22 management plan to ameliorate the primary threats to greater sage-
23 grouse in the State of Nevada; and

24 WHEREAS, Based on this Conservation Plan, the State of
25 Nevada is currently developing a Nevada Sage-Grouse Strategic
26 Action Plan to carry out the recommendations of the Conservation
27 Plan and achieve landscape-scale conservation of greater sage-
28 grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem; now, therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
30 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the
31 Nevada Legislature express their confidence in and support of
32 the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan and the
33 ability of the State of Nevada to conserve greater sage-grouse and
34 the sagebrush ecosystem effectively; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada
36 Legislature urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to not
37 list the greater sage-grouse as endangered or threatened under the
38 Endangered Species Act of 1973; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
40 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
41 States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker
42 of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada
43 Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the
44 Interior, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
45 and the Governor of the State of Nevada; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
2 passage.

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