

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., largely due to what was determined
8 to be a lack of regulatory mechanisms, and a decision on this listing
9 is scheduled for September 2015; and



1 WHEREAS, The listing of the greater sage-grouse as an
2 endangered or threatened species would have a devastatingly
3 negative impact on Nevada's land development, land use, water use,
4 mining, recreational activities and local economies; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2011, the Bureau of Land Management and the
6 United States Forest Service began a process to amend the agencies'
7 land use plans to incorporate greater sage-grouse conservation
8 measures as regulatory mechanisms; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States Secretary of the Interior
10 invited those states impacted by the potential listing of the greater
11 sage-grouse to develop state-specific regulatory mechanisms to
12 conserve the species; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2012, Governor Brian Sandoval strengthened the
14 State of Nevada's commitment to sage-grouse conservation by
15 issuing Executive Order 2012-09, establishing the Governor's
16 Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, which led to Executive
17 Order 2012-19, creating the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Nevada Legislature enacted the
19 provisions of Assembly Bill No. 461, which created the Sagebrush
20 Ecosystem Council within the State Department of Conservation
21 and Natural Resources and required the Council to establish and
22 carry out strategies for managing the greater sage-grouse and
23 sagebrush ecosystems in this State; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2014, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council directed
25 the preparation of and adopted the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-
26 Grouse Conservation Plan, which combines the best available
27 scientific information and stakeholder input into a conservation and
28 management plan to ameliorate the primary threats to greater sage-
29 grouse in the State of Nevada and which is intended to be the
30 alternative for management of greater sage-grouse in Nevada by the
31 Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service and
32 any other land management agency; and

33 WHEREAS, The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
34 Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service
35 Land Use Plan Amendment outline measures under the agencies'
36 preferred alternative that are not the provisions of the State's
37 Conservation Plan and could prove as detrimental to Nevada's
38 economy and way of life as an Endangered Species Act listing of
39 the greater sage-grouse; and

40 WHEREAS, The State's Conservation Plan was not outlined as
41 the alternative to be adopted by the Bureau of Land Management
42 and the United States Forest Service for management of greater
43 sage-grouse in Nevada; and

44 WHEREAS, Based on the State's Conservation Plan, the State of
45 Nevada is poised and ready to implement the State's Conservation



1 Plan and achieve landscape-scale conservation of greater sage-
2 grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
4 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the
5 Nevada Legislature express their confidence in and support of
6 the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan and the
7 ability of the State of Nevada to conserve greater sage-grouse and
8 the sagebrush ecosystem effectively; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada
10 Legislature exhort and strongly request the Bureau of Land
11 Management and the United States Forest Service to adopt the
12 State's Conservation Plan as the management alternative for greater
13 sage-grouse in Nevada; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada
15 Legislature urge and strongly request the United States Fish and
16 Wildlife Service to not list the greater sage-grouse as endangered or
17 threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and allow the
18 State of Nevada to implement the State's Conservation Plan to
19 demonstrate the effectiveness of the Plan as an adequate regulatory
20 mechanism in conserving the greater sage-grouse; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That if the Bureau of Land Management and the
22 United States Fish and Wildlife Service choose not to follow
23 the guidance and exhortations of this resolution, the members of the
24 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge and strongly request
25 the United States Congress to intervene and enact federal legislation
26 to provide an extension of time, for a period of 10 years through and
27 including Fiscal Year 2025, before the United States Secretary of
28 the Interior can consider, write or issue pursuant to Section 4 of the
29 Endangered Species Act of 1973 a finding or proposed federal
30 endangered species regulation in order to allow the State's
31 Conservation Plan to be implemented and demonstrate the
32 effectiveness of the Plan as an adequate regulatory mechanism in
33 conserving the greater sage-grouse; and be it further

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

41 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
42 passage.

