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ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—ASSEMBLYMEN HETRICK, PERKINS, ANDERSON, ANDONOV, ANGLE, ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BEERS, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHOWNING, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN, COLLINS, CONKLIN, GEDDES, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOICOECHEA, GOLDWATER, GRADY, GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HARDY, HORNE, KNECHT, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MABEY, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PIERCE, SHERER, WEBER AND WILLIAMS

MARCH 10, 2003

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to appropriate just compensation to State of Nevada for losses of revenue for public education from impact of land in Nevada held by Federal Government. (BDR R-1070)

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.

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ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to appropriate just compensation to State of Nevada for losses of revenue for public education from impact of land in Nevada held by Federal Government.

- 1 WHEREAS, For many years, the State of Nevada, along with the  
2 States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,  
3 Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming,  
4 have grappled with the challenge of providing the best education for  
5 their residents; and  
6 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada and the other western states  
7 face unique challenges in achieving this goal; and  
8 WHEREAS, From 1979 to 1998, the expenditures per pupil  
9 increased approximately 28 percent in the western states, 34 percent



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1 in the State of Nevada and 57 percent in the remaining states in the  
2 Nation; and

3 WHEREAS, In the 2000-2001 school year, the pupil-teacher ratio  
4 in public schools was approximately 18 to 1 in the western states, 19  
5 to 1 in the State of Nevada and 15 to 1 in the remaining states in the  
6 Nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The difficulty experienced by Nevada and the other  
8 western states in providing quality education to their residents is  
9 exacerbated by projections that enrollment in public schools from  
10 2002 to 2011 is expected to increase by approximately 7 percent in  
11 Nevada and the other western states and decrease by approximately  
12 3 percent in the remaining states in the Nation; and

13 WHEREAS, The ability of the State of Nevada and other western  
14 states to fund public education is further hindered by and directly  
15 related to the fact that the Federal Government holds large  
16 percentages of the land located in those states; and

17 WHEREAS, While states fund public education largely with  
18 revenue earned from the assessment of state and local property  
19 taxes, states cannot assess such property taxes on land in the state  
20 held by the Federal Government; and

21 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada and the other western states  
22 face greater burdens than the remaining states in the Nation in  
23 raising revenue from state and local property taxes to fund public  
24 education as the Federal Government holds approximately 52  
25 percent of the land located in the western states, 87 percent of the  
26 land located in the State of Nevada and only 4 percent of the land  
27 located in the remaining states; and

28 WHEREAS, According to the Action Plan for Public Lands and  
29 Education (APPLE) developed by the APPLE Steering Committee  
30 established by Speaker Marty Stephens of the Utah House of  
31 Representatives, the estimated annual loss of revenue from the  
32 inability of a state to assess property taxes for public education on  
33 land in the state held by the Federal Government is approximately  
34 \$4 billion in the western states and approximately \$116 million in  
35 the State of Nevada; and

36 WHEREAS, The ability of the State of Nevada and other western  
37 states to fund public education is also limited by the fact that the  
38 Federal Government shares with states only a portion of the royalty  
39 revenues that the Federal Government receives from the natural  
40 resources on land in the state held by the Federal Government; and

41 WHEREAS, The amount of such royalties received by states for  
42 public education is further reduced because land held by the Federal  
43 Government is less likely to be developed and federal laws often  
44 place stipulations on the use of royalty payments made to states; and



1 WHEREAS, According to the Action Plan for Public Lands and  
2 Education (APPLE), the estimated annual loss of revenue as a result  
3 of federal policies concerning royalty payments is approximately  
4 \$1.8 billion in the western states and approximately \$6 million in  
5 the State of Nevada; and

6 WHEREAS, The Federal Government should compensate the  
7 State of Nevada and other western states for the significant impact  
8 of lands in those states held by the Federal Government; and

9 WHEREAS, Just compensation provided by the Federal  
10 Government to the State of Nevada and the other western states will  
11 allow those states to be on equal footing with the rest of the Nation  
12 in their efforts to provide education for their residents; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
15 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature  
16 urge Congress to appropriate just compensation to the State of  
17 Nevada for the losses of revenue for public education from the  
18 impact of land held by the Federal Government within the  
19 boundaries of the State of Nevada; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and  
21 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United  
22 States, Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of  
23 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each  
24 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
26 passage.

