

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1—ASSEMBLYMAN BACHE

PREFILED JANUARY 8, 1999

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to limit period for withdrawal by United States Air Force of public land located within Nellis Air Force Range. (BDR R-1060)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: 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 limit the period for withdrawal by the United States Air Force of the public land located within the Nellis Air Force Range.

1 WHEREAS, On November 6, 1986, the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of
2 1986 was enacted by Congress as Public Law 99-606; and

3 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Act, approximately 3 million acres of public
4 land located in southern and central Nevada are withdrawn from the public
5 domain for use by the United States Air Force in military operations and
6 other activities conducted on the Nellis Air Force Range; and

7 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Act, the land is withdrawn for 15 years and,
8 in 2001, Congress may consider whether to renew the withdrawal of the
9 land for use by the United States Air Force for a period to be determined by
10 Congress; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Air Force has indicated that it will request
12 that the withdrawal of the land be renewed for use by the United States Air
13 Force at the Nellis Air Force Range and that the period of withdrawal be for
14 25 years or an indefinite period; and

15 WHEREAS, The military operations conducted by the United States Air
16 Force on the Nellis Air Force Range often involve the use of live ordnance
17 and other materials that are hazardous to the environment of areas within
18 the range; and

19 WHEREAS, Approximately 87 percent of the land in Nevada is managed
20 and controlled by the Federal Government; and

1 WHEREAS, Nevada has in recent years experienced a tremendous
2 increase in population, including areas located near the Nellis Air Force
3 Range; and

4 WHEREAS, The increase in population has created a corresponding
5 increase in the demand for land for public purposes, including, without
6 limitation, land required for expansion and development of cities and towns
7 in this state and for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 25 mining districts are located partially or
10 entirely within the Nellis Air Force Range; and

11 WHEREAS, Because mining and exploration for minerals have been
12 conducted in several of those districts since 1860, many valuable deposits
13 of minerals and other substances have been identified within or near the
14 Nellis Air Force Range, including deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead,
15 zinc, mercury, tungsten, turquoise, sodium, potassium, alunite, potash and
16 commercial grade sand, gravel and limestone; and

17 WHEREAS, Since approximately 1942, access to those deposits for
18 mining or exploration has been limited or prohibited because of the
19 withdrawal of the land for use by the United States Air Force; and

20 WHEREAS, The Nellis Air Force Range is vitally important in protecting
21 our national security and providing training for military operations and
22 other activities conducted by the United States Air Force on the Nellis Air
23 Force Range; and

24 WHEREAS, Although the Nellis Air Force Range has contributed
25 significantly to the economy of this state, the operations and activities
26 conducted on the range must be monitored and reviewed periodically to
27 determine whether those operations and activities are necessary, to assess
28 any damage to the environment of areas within the Nellis Air Force Range
29 and to consider the possibility of authorizing other uses of the public land
30 within the range by the residents of this state; now, therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
32 JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to authorize
33 the United States Air Force to withdraw the public land located within the
34 Nellis Air Force Range for not more than 15 years; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That if Congress, in considering whether to renew the
36 withdrawal of the public land within the Nellis Air Force Range,
37 determines that any portion of that land is not required for military
38 operations or other activities conducted by the United States Air Force, the
39 Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to authorize the residents of this
40 state to use the land for mining, recreation or any other public purpose; and
41 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
2 copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the
3 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
4 and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
7 approval.

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