

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1—ASSEMBLYMAN BACHE

PREFILED JANUARY 8, 1999

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to authorize withdrawal by United States Air Force of public land within Nellis Air Force Range for indefinite period subject to certain conditions. (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 ~~for omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to authorize the withdrawal by the United States Air Force of the public land within the Nellis Air Force Range for an indefinite period subject to certain conditions.

- 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- 4 land located in southern and central Nevada are withdrawn from the public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- 7 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Act, the land is withdrawn for 15 years and, in
- 8 2001, Congress may consider whether to renew the withdrawal of the land
- 9 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 the
- 18 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 of
13 minerals and other substances have been identified within or near the Nellis
14 Air Force Range, including deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc,
15 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 other
22 activities conducted by the United States Air Force on the Nellis Air Force
23 Range; and

24 WHEREAS, The operations and activities conducted on the Nellis Air
25 Force Range must be monitored and reviewed periodically to determine
26 whether those operations and activities are necessary, and to consider the
27 possibility of authorizing other uses of the public land within the range by
28 residents of this state; and

29 WHEREAS, The Nellis Air Force Range has contributed significantly to
30 the economy of this state, and the State of Nevada supports the use of the
31 range for purposes directly related to the operation of the Nellis Air Force
32 Base; now, therefore, be it

33 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
34 JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to authorize
35 the United States Air Force to withdraw the public land located within the
36 Nellis Air Force Range indefinitely, provided that:

37 1. If the range or any portion thereof ceases to be used for such
38 purposes, the range or that portion which is no longer used for such
39 purposes would revert to the State of Nevada for economic development or
40 other purposes that the state determines are compatible with the character
41 of the land;

42 2. The Federal Government will be responsible for any environmental
43 cleanup of the range that may be required;

1 3. The United States Air Force will provide periodic reports, every 5
2 years, to the Congress and the state, with continued public involvement and
3 input, to:

4 (a) Determine whether continued operation of the range is necessary;
5 (b) Assess any damage to the environment of areas within the range; and
6 (c) Consider the possibility of authorizing other uses of the public land
7 within the range by residents of this state;

8 4. Congress reviews the indefinite withdrawal every 15 years without
9 requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement; and

10 5. Congress does not authorize high-level radioactive waste to be stored
11 temporarily or permanently at any location within the Nellis Air Force
12 Range; and be it further

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

17 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
18 approval.

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