

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses strong disapproval of certain regulations concerning regional haze proposed by United States Environmental Protection Agency. (BDR R-921)

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.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing strong disapproval of certain regulations concerning regional haze proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

- 1 WHEREAS, On July 31, 1997, the United States Environmental
2 Protection Agency published proposed regulations concerning regional
3 haze in volume 62, number 147, of the Federal Register at page 41137; and
4 WHEREAS, Pursuant to those proposed regulations, the United States
5 Environmental Protection Agency proposes to establish a national
6 regulatory program that reduces the impairment of visibility caused by
7 regional haze in mandatory Class I Federal areas, including national parks
8 that encompass more than 6,000 acres, wilderness areas and national
9 memorial parks that encompass more than 5,000 acres and any
10 international park that was in existence on August 7, 1977; and
11 WHEREAS, If adopted, the proposed regulations will affect 156 of those
12 areas, including the Jarbidge Wilderness Area and the Great Basin
13 National Park located in Nevada; and
14 WHEREAS, The deciview is the unit of measurement used in the
15 proposed regulations to measure regional haze, and is a mathematical
16 means of expressing an amount of light extinction resulting in a small, but
17 noticeable, change in haziness under most conditions in mandatory Class I
18 Federal areas; and

1 WHEREAS, The standard for controlling and reducing regional haze set
2 forth in the proposed regulations requires an improvement in visibility in
3 those areas of at least 1 deciview every 10 or 15 years, and prohibits a
4 decrease in visibility in those areas of 0.1 deciview or more per year; and

5 WHEREAS, Such a standard is unrealistic because it allows for very little
6 degradation of air quality in Nevada and, therefore, may prohibit or reduce
7 growth in many areas of this state, including Clark and Washoe Counties;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The proposed regulations have received extensive criticism
10 from several agencies and organizations, including the Western Governors'
11 Association, the Division of Environmental Protection of the State
12 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Nevada
13 Taxpayers Association; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency has
15 estimated that the cost of implementing the proposed regulations after
16 adoption will be \$2.7 billion per year by the year 2010; and

17 WHEREAS, That cost will impose a significant economic burden on each
18 state affected by the proposed regulations, including the State of Nevada
19 and the local governments in this state; and

20 WHEREAS, Because impairment of visibility caused by regional haze in
21 many areas in the Western United States is not as significant as in areas in
22 the Eastern United States, compliance with the proposed regulations, if
23 adopted, will be difficult for states in the Western United States, and the
24 perceived benefit in visibility resulting from implementation of the
25 proposed regulations in those states will be minimal in comparison to the
26 cost of complying with the regulations; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
28 JOINTLY, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada expresses strong
29 disapproval of the proposed regulations concerning regional haze
30 published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on July
31 31, 1997, in volume 62, number 147, page 41137 of the Federal Register;
32 and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the following persons are encouraged to address issues
34 relating to air quality and regional haze in this state, including wilderness
35 areas and the Great Basin National Park located in this state:

36 1. The officers and employees of the United States Environmental
37 Protection Agency, the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land
38 Management and the Division of Environmental Protection of the State
39 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and

40 2. The owners and operators of mines and the officers and employees
41 of public utilities in this state; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a
2 copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the United States
3 Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Supervisor of the United
4 States Forest Service in Nevada, the Director of the Nevada State Office of
5 the Bureau of Land Management, the Administrator of the Division of
6 Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and
7 Natural Resources, the President of the Nevada Mining Association, the
8 Chairman of the Board of Directors and the President of the Sierra Pacific
9 Power Company and the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the
10 President of the Nevada Power Company; and be it further
11 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
12 approval.

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