

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 international
- 10 park that was in existence on August 7, 1977; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The standards for controlling and reducing regional haze set
- 12 forth in the proposed regulations are unreasonable, and the cost of
- 13 complying with those standards is excessive; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The proposed regulations do not adequately address issues
- 15 relating to the control of regional haze that is caused by emissions from
- 16 motor vehicles, fires and air pollution that originates outside the United
- 17 States; and
- 18 WHEREAS, The proposed regulations have received extensive criticism
- 19 from several agencies and organizations, including the Western Governors'

1 Association, the Division of Environmental Protection of the State
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Nevada Taxpayers
3 Association and the Nevada Association of Counties; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency has
5 estimated that the cost of implementing the proposed regulations after
6 adoption will be \$2.7 billion per year by the year 2010, of which \$2.1
7 billion per year is estimated to be required of the states in the Western
8 United States; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the proposed regulations, the State of Nevada
13 will be unreasonably limited in its potential for future economic activity;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Because impairment of visibility caused by regional haze in
16 many areas in the Western United States is not as significant as in areas in
17 the Eastern United States, compliance with the proposed regulations, if
18 adopted, will be difficult for states in the Western United States, and the
19 perceived benefit in visibility resulting from implementation of the
20 proposed regulations in those states will be minimal in comparison to the
21 cost of complying with the regulations; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency has
23 received numerous recommendations that it should resubmit the proposed
24 regulations for review and comment by the members of the general public
25 after the proposed regulations are amended to address issues concerning the
26 control of regional haze that is caused by emissions from motor vehicles,
27 fires and air pollution that originates outside the United States and issues
28 concerning the cost of complying with the proposed regulations; and

29 WHEREAS, Despite those recommendations, in February 1999, the
30 United States Environmental Protection Agency submitted the proposed
31 regulations to the United States Office of Management and Budget without
32 amending the proposed regulations to address those issues; now, therefore,
33 be it

34 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
35 JOINTLY, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada expresses strong
36 disapproval of the proposed regulations concerning regional haze published
37 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on July 31, 1997, in
38 volume 62, number 147, page 41137 of the Federal Register and submitted
39 to the United States Office of Management and Budget in February 1999;
40 and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That the United States Environmental Protection Agency is
42 hereby urged to refrain from adopting the proposed regulations unless the
43 proposed regulations are amended to address issues concerning:

1 1. The control of regional haze that is caused by emissions from motor
2 vehicles, fires and air pollution that originates outside the United States;
3 and

4 2. The cost of complying with the proposed regulations; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That Congress is hereby urged to take any action that is
7 appropriate to prohibit the United States Environmental Protection Agency
8 from adopting the proposed regulations unless the proposed regulations are
9 amended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to address
10 those issues; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy
12 of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
13 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each
14 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Director of the
15 United States Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the
16 United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Supervisor of
17 the United States Forest Service in Nevada, the Director of the Nevada
18 State Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Administrator of
19 the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of
20 Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and
22 approval.