

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 16, 2003

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses support for plan to consolidate certain public and private lands in Pershing County and urges Nevada Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation providing for such consolidation of lands in Pershing County. (BDR R-1323)

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.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for the plan to consolidate certain public and private lands in Pershing County and urging the members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation providing for such consolidation of lands in Pershing County.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government granted approximately 5
2 million acres of public land in northern Nevada to the Central
3 Pacific Railroad Company in the 1860s as part of the incentives
4 offered to railroad companies for building the first transcontinental
5 railroad; and

6 WHEREAS, As a result of that grant of land, which consisted of
7 every other square mile of property extending 20 miles on each side
8 of the railroad, land ownership across northern Nevada in the
9 vicinity of Interstate Highway No. 80, particularly in Pershing
10 County, appears as a checkerboard pattern of public and private
11 land; and

12 WHEREAS, This ownership pattern of public and private land in
13 Nevada negatively impacts the management of public lands and the
14 development of private lands in counties that have an extensive



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1 amount of land with such an ownership pattern within their
2 boundaries, including Pershing County; and

3 WHEREAS, The management of rangeland fires, noxious weeds,
4 wildlife, livestock, water resources and drought conditions and other
5 issues faced by the Bureau of Land Management as a federal agency
6 that manages the public lands and by ranchers who lease the private
7 lands or hold permits on the public lands are greatly complicated by
8 the checkerboard pattern of land; and

9 WHEREAS, The consolidation of the public and private lands
10 located within the checkerboard pattern into larger parcels of public
11 and private lands would improve the management of public lands
12 through enhanced protection of natural resources and would
13 increase the development of private lands which in turn would
14 encourage economic and community development; and

15 WHEREAS, The Nevada Land and Resource Company, as a
16 successor in interest to the Central Pacific Railroad Company, owns
17 in excess of 300,000 acres of the private land that is located within
18 the portion of the checkerboard pattern of public and private lands in
19 Pershing County; and

20 WHEREAS, Representatives of Pershing County, the Nevada
21 Land and Resource Company, and the Bureau of Land Management
22 are collaborating to develop a plan for the consolidation of certain
23 public and private lands located within the portion of the
24 checkerboard pattern in Pershing County, and to ensure that the plan
25 complies with existing local master plans and expands the ad
26 valorem tax base in Pershing County; and

27 WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners of Pershing
28 County has passed Resolution No. 030301 in support of these
29 efforts by representatives of Pershing County, the Nevada Land and
30 Resource Company, and the Bureau of Land Management; and

31 WHEREAS, Federal legislation is necessary for the interested
32 parties to implement the plan to consolidate the public and private
33 lands located within the checkerboard pattern in Pershing County;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
36 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 72nd Session of the
37 Nevada Legislature hereby express their support for the concept of
38 consolidation of certain public and private lands in Pershing County
39 in accordance with the plan developed by representatives of
40 Pershing County, the Nevada Land and Resource Company, and the
41 Bureau of Land Management; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the members of the 72nd Session of the
43 Nevada Legislature hereby urge that all aspects of the development
44 and formalization of a final plan for the consolidation of certain
45 public and private lands in Pershing County comply with all



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1 applicable federal laws and regulations governing the environment,
2 including, without limitation, the National Environmental Policy
3 Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the members of the 72nd Session of the
5 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the members of the Nevada
6 Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation to
7 implement the plan developed by representatives of Pershing
8 County, the Nevada Land and Resource Company, and the Bureau
9 of Land Management to consolidate certain public and private lands
10 in Pershing County; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
12 transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of the Nevada
13 Congressional Delegation and to the Chairman of the Board of
14 County Commissioners of Pershing County, the Nevada Land and
15 Resource Company, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of
16 the Bureau of Land Management; and be it further

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

