

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Senator Lee

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the President of the United States to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide full funding for the Clark County Sport Shooting Park.

WHEREAS, The United States Congress passed the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998, which authorizes the United States Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management to sell certain federal lands in Clark County to the private sector for development purposes; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the Act allocate 5 percent of the profits from the sale of federal land to fund education in Nevada, 10 percent to the Southern Nevada Water Authority for water delivery projects, and 85 percent to a special account to be used for the federal acquisition of environmentally sensitive land to develop a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to protect threatened and endangered species, for capital projects on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, and for developing parks, trails and natural areas in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, Additional legislation amended the Act to include the funding of conservation initiatives on federal land and federal environmental restoration projects at Lake Tahoe and to authorize that certain revenues be set aside for other specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Las Vegas Valley is the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States and the Act was passed, in part, to offset growing recreational and environmental impacts on federal land surrounding the Las Vegas Valley and to provide recreational amenities within the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Clark County enjoy and utilize the right to own and use firearms, with persons in one of every three households estimated to own a firearm, and firearm owners have expressed a strong desire to develop a safe and affordable public shooting park in the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, The Las Vegas Valley has limited public shooting opportunities and no public shooting parks, causing citizens to use federal lands for practice shooting, which results in illegal shooting, environmental damage and public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement, the security industry and local military units in the Las Vegas Valley have expressed a desire for a shooting park to meet training and Homeland Defense needs; and

WHEREAS, The need for a public shooting park was acknowledged by the Department of the Interior and Congress in January 2002 when President George W. Bush signed into law H.R.

2937, which transferred 2,880 acres of federal land to Clark County for the purpose of constructing a public shooting park; and

WHEREAS, The Clark County Board of Commissioners directed the Department of Parks and Community Services, with the advice of a citizen advisory committee, to design, construct and operate the shooting park; and

WHEREAS, The Sport Shooting Park Citizen Advisory Committee has recommended a conceptual plan for a safe, affordable and self-sustaining sport shooting park to meet the needs of the public, and this project enjoys strong support from the residents of the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Interior, using money generated from the sale of land in Las Vegas Valley as required by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, funded the first phase of this project; and

WHEREAS, The Clark County staff proposed that the federal Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Subgroup recommend funding of \$42,160,000 by the Department of the Interior to complete the remainder of the Sport Shooting Park development, as phases 2 and 3 of the project; and

WHEREAS, The Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Subgroup funding recommendation eliminated the proposed law enforcement area and the park center, thereby reducing the funding recommendation to \$33,600,000; and

WHEREAS, The Clark County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on March 1, 2005, requesting a reevaluation of the recommendation and the continuation of funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to authorize expenditure of money from the Act to provide full funding for the Clark County Sport Shooting Park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President Bush to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide full funding for the Clark County Sport Shooting Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature support the resolutions adopted by the Clark County Board of Commissioners on March 1, 2005, concerning the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of

Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

