

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2—SENATORS TITUS, RHOADS, COFFIN, WIENER, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, HECK, HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, RAGGIO, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY AND WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BUCKLEY, MORTENSON, OHRENSCHALL, MANENDO, GIUNCHIGLIANI, ALLEN, ANDERSON, ARBERRY JR., ATKINSON, CARPENTER, CLABORN, CONKLIN, DENIS, GERHARDT, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, HARDY, HOGAN, HORNE, KIRKPATRICK, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MABEY, MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, PARKS, PARNELL, PERKINS, PIERCE, SEALE, SHERER, SIBLEY AND SMITH

Declared an Emergency Measure

SUMMARY—Urges President of United States to reverse his position on, and alternatively urges Congress to reject, his federal budget proposal to use money derived from sales of land in Nevada to lower federal deficit. (BDR R-1087)

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—Urging the President of the United States to reverse his position on, and alternatively urging Congress to reject, his federal budget proposal to use money derived from the sale of land in Nevada to lower the federal deficit.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1998, Congress passed the Southern Nevada
- 2 Public Land Management Act, Public Law No. 105-263, which
- 3 allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell certain federal lands
- 4 in Clark County, Nevada, for possible development, while also



1 allowing for the acquisition, conservation and protection of
2 environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada; and

3 WHEREAS, At the time of the passage of the Act, and to this day,
4 the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area was the fastest growing urban area
5 in the United States, and the Act was passed in response to that
6 growth in an effort to offset negative environmental impacts on
7 national recreational and conservation areas surrounding the Las
8 Vegas Valley; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the provisions of the Act, 5 percent of the
10 profits from sales of the land is allocated to fund education in
11 Nevada, 10 percent is allocated for water and airport infrastructure
12 projects, and the remaining 85 percent is deposited into an account
13 to acquire other environmentally sensitive land in Nevada, to
14 develop a multispecies habitat plan, to develop parks and trails and
15 to provide for other conservation initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, The passage of the Southern Nevada Land
17 Management Act was intended to replace lost state revenue resulting
18 from 84 percent of the land in the State of Nevada being owned by
19 the Federal Government at the time of the passage of the Act,
20 uniquely depriving this State of receiving any tax proceeds from a
21 substantial majority of the land located in this State; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to the benefits provided in Southern
23 Nevada and in other areas of the State where environmentally
24 sensitive lands have been acquired, the Lake Tahoe Basin is now
25 benefiting from a 2003 amendment to the Act which allocated \$300
26 million to be administered for the preservation of the Lake Tahoe
27 Basin, the first installment of which was received in August 2004;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Since the first auction of land in 1999, this program
30 has generated approximately \$1.6 billion, which has assisted the
31 State of Nevada in funding education and numerous land and water
32 conservation projects, and in acquiring environmentally sensitive
33 lands; and

34 WHEREAS, In the face of a soaring federal deficit, estimated at
35 \$527 billion, President Bush has proposed to change federal law and
36 reallocate 70 percent of the profits from the land sales, generously
37 approximated to reach \$70 million in future years, which would do
38 little to offset the deficit; and

39 WHEREAS, The loss of such a substantial source of revenue for
40 this State would have a direct and devastating impact on the State,
41 negatively impacting dozens of ongoing and future projects; now,
42 therefore, be it

43 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
44 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature
45 urge President Bush to reverse his position on this matter,



1 abandoning his proposal to divert from this State profits from the
2 sales of land in the State of Nevada that rightfully belong in this
3 State to replace lost revenue resulting from the uniquely high
4 percentage of federally owned property in this State; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That Congress is similarly urged to reject this
7 portion of President Bush's budget proposal and to allow the State
8 of Nevada, its residents and visitors to be the sole beneficiaries of
9 the proceeds from the sales of land in Nevada; and be it further

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

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



