

Amendment No. 425

Senate Amendment to Senate Bill No. 287

(BDR S-216)

Proposed by: Senate Committee on Natural Resources**Amends:** Summary: No Title: No Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: No

ASSEMBLY ACTION				Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION				Initial and Date
Adopted	☐	Lost	☐	_____	Adopted	☐	Lost	☐	_____
Concurred In	☐	Not	☐	_____	Concurred In	☐	Not	☐	_____
Receded	☐	Not	☐	_____	Receded	☐	Not	☐	_____

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) ***blue bold italics*** is new language in the original bill; (2) ***green bold italic underlining*** is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) ~~orange double underlining~~ is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment; and (6) ***green bold underlining*** is newly added transitory language.

JLW/BJE



Date: 4/21/2011

S.B. No. 287—Expresses opposition to the location of a proposed wind power project on Mount Wilson and Table Mountain. (BDR S-216)



SENATE BILL NO. 287—SENATOR RHODS

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses opposition to the location of a proposed wind power project on Mount Wilson and Table Mountain. (BDR S-216)

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.

AN ACT relating to wind power projects; expressing opposition to the location of a proposed wind power project on Mount Wilson and Table Mountain; making recommendations for future action regarding the project; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill expresses opposition to a proposed wind power project primarily located on Mount Wilson and Table Mountain in the Ely District of the Bureau of Land Management and recommends that an alternative site be used for this project. Additionally, this bill recognizes the environmental and cultural significance of Mount Wilson and Table Mountain, and that the construction and operation of wind turbines on Mount Wilson and Table Mountain would adversely affect the indigenous animal and plant species of that region and interfere with the various public uses of that land.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. The State of Nevada has an interest in developing alternative sources of energy, including renewable energy derived from wind power, which are cost-effective, which minimally affect the environment and which preserve the natural resources of the State;

2. Mount Wilson ~~and Table Mountain~~ ***and Table Mountain*** which ~~are~~ ***are*** located in the Wilson Creek Range in Lincoln County, ~~and Table Mountain, which is located in the Monitor Range in Nye County,~~ are culturally and historically significant, are renowned for their diverse indigenous animal and plant species, and are distinct for their scenic landscapes;

3. Mount Wilson and Table Mountain are cherished by Nevadans who enjoy using the land for hunting, hiking, recreation and other outdoor activities;

4. A wind power project currently proposed in Lincoln County ~~and Nye County,~~ would require the use of 31,000 acres, primarily on Mount Wilson and

1 Table Mountain, and the construction of 350 wind turbines that are between 211
2 and 325 feet in height, 178 miles of access roads and 50 miles of overhead
3 transmission line;

4 5. The infrastructure necessary to build and operate the wind turbines will
5 require the construction of numerous roads through steep terrain, the removal of
6 millions of tons of soil and the destruction of native vegetation and fauna;

7 6. The wind power project will destroy the ~~["wilderness"]~~ multiple-use
8 qualities of Mount Wilson and Table Mountain and negatively affect the habitats of
9 numerous animal species that rely on this land to breed, to forage for food and as a
10 migratory corridor;

11 7. Mount Wilson and Table Mountain have been designated by the Bureau of
12 Land Management as crucial fawning grounds for mule deer and elk; and

13 8. ~~["Mount Wilson and Table Mountain are breeding grounds for the greater~~
14 ~~sage grouse, a popular game bird that has been identified by the United States Fish~~
15 ~~and Wildlife Service as a candidate for protection as an endangered species; and~~

16 ~~— 9.]~~ The wind power project could be located at an alternative site, thereby
17 minimizing the environmental footprint of the project and preserving the culturally
18 significant and environmentally diverse areas of Mount Wilson and Table
19 Mountain.

20 **Sec. 2.** Based upon the findings expressed in section 1 of this act, the
21 Legislature hereby recommends that:

22 1. A more suitable location for the wind power project than Mount Wilson
23 and Table Mountain should be found in Lincoln County, Nevada;

24 2. The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and the Nevada Grazing
25 Board of District No. 4 should be involved in all phases of any wind power project
26 in the Mount Wilson and Table Mountain region of Lincoln County, including,
27 without limitation, the planning, construction, operation and decommission phases
28 of such a project; and

29 3. ~~["The Nye County Board of Commissioners should be involved in all phases~~
30 ~~of any wind power project in Nye County, including, without limitation, the~~
31 ~~planning, construction, operation and decommission phases of such a project; and~~

32 ~~— 4.]~~ Any wind power project proposed ~~["in the Ely District or the Battle~~
33 ~~Mountain District of the Bureau of Land Management]~~ on public land in the
34 Mount Wilson and Table Mountain region of Lincoln County should be
35 situated in contemplation of the location's cultural significance, indigenous plants
36 and animals, multiple public uses and accessibility.

37 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.