

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to take certain actions concerning
federal public lands in Nevada. (BDR R-212)

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 Congress to take certain
actions concerning federal public lands in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls
2 approximately 87 percent of the land in Nevada; and

3 WHEREAS, Nevada has an abundance of natural resources,
4 including vast areas of land suitable for raising livestock, large
5 deposits of gold, silver, copper and other minerals, and plentiful
6 renewable resources, including, without limitation, sun, wind and
7 geothermal resources that may be used to generate electricity; and

8 WHEREAS, Many of those renewable resources are located on
9 public lands managed and controlled by the Federal Government;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Activities that occur on those public lands increase
12 the demand for services provided by the State of Nevada and local
13 governments in Nevada; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada and local governments are
15 limited in their ability to collect taxes or other fees from the Federal
16 Government or from the users of public lands to fund services
17 provided by the State and local governments; and

18 WHEREAS, The Federal Government receives revenue from the
19 licensing and permitting of activities that occur on those public



1 lands, including mining, grazing livestock and generating electricity
2 from renewable resources; and

3 WHEREAS, There have been efforts to curtail the practice by the
4 Federal Government of sharing a portion of that revenue with
5 the State of Nevada and local governments, including curtailing the
6 practice of sharing with the counties a portion of the revenue
7 derived from the lease of public lands and royalties from the
8 generation of electricity from geothermal resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The provisions of S.3587 were recently introduced in
10 the United States Senate, and require the Secretary of the Interior to
11 establish a competitive leasing program for wind and solar energy
12 development on federal public lands; and

13 WHEREAS, The provisions of S.3587 require the sharing of a
14 portion of the revenue from the competitive leasing program with
15 the counties from which the revenue is derived, thereby creating a
16 beneficial and meaningful role for counties in Nevada; and

17 WHEREAS, The proposed budget submitted to Congress by the
18 United States Department of the Interior for federal Fiscal Year
19 2011 calls for the permanent elimination of the counties' share of
20 royalties from the generation of electricity from geothermal
21 resources; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
23 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 76th Session of the
24 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress:

25 1. To ensure that the public lands in Nevada that are managed
26 and controlled by the Federal Government remain open to multiple
27 uses; and

28 2. To enact legislation ensuring that the State of Nevada and
29 the affected local governments in Nevada receive a portion of the
30 revenue received by the Federal Government for activities
31 conducted on the federal public lands in Nevada and ensuring that
32 such sharing includes, without limitation, the reinstatement and
33 continuation of federal laws and policies whereby local
34 governments receive appropriate rents and royalties for activities
35 which generate electricity from geothermal resources; and be it
36 further

37 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
38 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
39 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
40 Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the
41 Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
43 passage.

