

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—
Committee on Natural Resources

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to take certain
actions concerning federal public lands in Nevada.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Federal Government receives revenue from the licensing and permitting of activities that occur on those public lands, including mining, grazing livestock and generating electricity from renewable resources; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The proposed budget submitted to Congress by the United States Department of the Interior for federal Fiscal Year



2011 calls for the permanent elimination of the counties' share of royalties from the generation of electricity from geothermal resources; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

