

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses opposition to certain actions concerning wild horse and burro herds on federal public lands in Nevada. (BDR R-215)

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—Expressing opposition to certain actions concerning wild horse and burro herds on federal public lands in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls
2 approximately 87 percent of the land in Nevada, much of it being
3 rangelands populated with herds of wild horses and burros; and

4 WHEREAS, Those rangelands are subject to multiple uses,
5 including livestock grazing, hunting, wildlife viewing and other
6 recreation, and as such, a healthy rangeland is vital to the economic
7 well-being of Nevada; and

8 WHEREAS, The populations of wild horses and burros, if left
9 unmanaged, double approximately every 5 years, threatening the
10 rangelands with overgrazing and placing increased pressure on the
11 ability of the rangelands to support livestock grazing and existing
12 native species of both plants and animals; and

13 WHEREAS, Wild horses and burros are not indigenous species in
14 the rangelands but were introduced by humans, and it is thus the
15 responsibility of humans to manage the populations of wild horses
16 and burros in the rangelands; and

17 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming
18 Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq., the Secretary of



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1 the Interior is required to manage wild free-roaming horses and
2 burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a
3 thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands and to
4 determine appropriate management levels of wild free-roaming
5 horses and burros in a given area in such a manner as to preserve
6 and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use
7 relationship in that area; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
9 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 76th Session of the
10 Nevada Legislature hereby express opposition to any amendments
11 to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. §§
12 1331 et seq., or any other proposed action, that would, if enacted,
13 allow any growth of wild horse and burro herds in Nevada, allow
14 the expansion of wild horse and burro herd management areas in
15 Nevada or in any other way negatively impact Nevada; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby
18 urge Congress to take steps necessary to ensure that the Secretary of
19 the Interior complies with existing laws and regulations relating to
20 wild horses and burros; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That in complying with those laws and regulations,
22 the Bureau of Land Management is hereby urged to manage the
23 rangelands in Nevada in a manner which ensures the increased
24 health and availability of those rangelands for multiple uses; and be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
27 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
28 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of
30 the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the Interior,
31 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the Bureau of Land
32 Management and the Chief of the United States Forest Service; and
33 be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
35 passage.

