SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8–SENATORS RHOADS; BROWER, CEGAVSKE, GUSTAVSON, HALSETH, HARDY, HORSFORD, KIECKHEFER, MCGINNESS, ROBERSON AND SETTELMEYER

MARCH 9, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges the Federal Government and certain other governmental entities to expedite and streamline the requirements for conducting mining operations in this State. (BDR R-1035)

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 Federal Government and certain other governmental entities to expedite and streamline the requirements for conducting mining operations in this State.

WHEREAS, Since the earliest days of statehood, the State of Nevada has been known for containing vast deposits of minerals located throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Because of the availability of those mineral deposits, mining is one of the larger industries in the State of Nevada which has traditionally provided many high-paying jobs for local communities and has contributed to the communities in other ways such as investing in infrastructure and services for those communities; and

WHEREAS, Mining operations in the State of Nevada are highly regulated by numerous governmental entities at the state and federal levels, including, without limitation, regulation by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service and the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Because of that regulation, to conduct a mining operation in the State of Nevada, an owner or operator of a mine must comply with numerous requirements, including, without limitation, preparing and filing a notice or plan of operation, obtaining the appropriate air quality and water quality permits, obtaining a permit to appropriate water for use in the mining operation, obtaining rights-of-way for access to and the transmission of electricity for the mining operation and obtaining a local business license; and

WHEREAS, Complying with those requirements is often burdensome and expensive, sometimes requiring up to 10 years and more than $1 billion before a mining operation is able to produce any minerals; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, the need for developing energy from geothermal, solar, wind and other sources has become increasingly important; and

WHEREAS, To meet that need, the procedure for obtaining permits and rights-of-way and complying with other requirements to develop those sources of energy have recently been expedited and streamlined; and

WHEREAS, The expeditious development of mineral deposits in this State is also essential for the creation of jobs, the payment of taxes and the continued contribution of infrastructure and services to local communities by the mining industry in this State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Federal Government and each governmental entity in this State which regulates the activities of mining operations in this State are hereby urged to expedite and streamline the procedure for obtaining permits and complying with any other requirement for conducting those mining operations in this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

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