

SENATE BILL NO. 159—SENATORS JONES, KIHUEN, HUTCHISON,
SMITH, PARKS; DENIS, FORD, GOICOECHEA, HAMMOND,
MANENDO, SEGERBLOM, SPEARMAN AND WOODHOUSE

FEBRUARY 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN OSCARSON, BOBZIEN, SWANK,
ELLIOT ANDERSON; DONDERO LOOP, FLORES, HEALEY,
MARTIN, OHRENSCHALL AND PIERCE

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Declares the Legislature's support for a land
exchange near the Red Rock Canyon National
Conservation Area. (BDR S-552)

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 the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation
Area; declaring the Legislature's support for a land
exchange near the Red Rock Canyon National
Conservation area; and providing other matters properly
relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill declares the Legislature's support for efforts to achieve a land
2 exchange of the Gypsum Mine, which is bounded in part by the Red Rock Canyon
3 National Conservation Area, property for federal land. This bill also urges the
4 Nevada Congressional Delegation to support and facilitate efforts to achieve a land
5 exchange. Finally, this bill declares the Legislature's support for the transfer of title
6 for the Gypsum Mine property to the federal Bureau of Land Management to be
7 managed as part of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

1 WHEREAS, The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
2 is a natural wonder within the State of Nevada and an area of unique
3 beauty, scenery and recreational interest; and



1 WHEREAS, The Gypsum Mine property on Blue Diamond Hill
2 consists of over 3,000 acres of land that is bounded on the north,
3 west, south and portions of the east by the Red Rock Canyon
4 National Conservation Area; and

5 WHEREAS, The elevation within the Gypsum Mine property
6 reaches approximately 4,950 feet above sea level at its highest point
7 and generally slopes toward the Red Rock Canyon National
8 Conservation Area; and

9 WHEREAS, Portions of the Gypsum Mine property are visible
10 from locations within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation
11 Area; and

12 WHEREAS, The Blue Diamond Cholla is found on undisturbed
13 portions of the Gypsum Mine property; and

14 WHEREAS, The Gypsum Mine property contains a uniquely high
15 concentration of biological diversity representing the entire Mojave
16 Desert with at least 15 documented species of cacti and succulents;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The unincorporated town of Blue Diamond is
19 located approximately 1 mile from the southernmost portion of the
20 Gypsum Mine property; and

21 WHEREAS, There is strong and vocal opposition to commercial
22 and suburban residential development of the Gypsum Mine property
23 and contentions that such development of the Gypsum Mine
24 property may adversely impact the beauty and serenity of the
25 adjacent Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and the
26 quiet enjoyment of the nearby town of Blue Diamond; and

27 WHEREAS, Land exchanges are an essential tool to secure the
28 objectives of resource management, enhancement and protection, to
29 meet the needs of the communities and to fulfill other public needs;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The exploration of the full range of possibilities
32 available to exchange the Gypsum Mine property for federal lands
33 of equal value located away from the Red Rock Canyon National
34 Conservation Area promotes the public interest; now, therefore,
35

36 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
37 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
38

39 **Section 1.** (Deleted by amendment.)

40 **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

41 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

42 **Sec. 4.** (Deleted by amendment.)

43 **Sec. 5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

44 **Sec. 5.3.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares its support
45 for efforts to evaluate and consider the full range of options



1 available to achieve a land exchange of the Gypsum Mine property
2 for federal land.

3 **Sec. 5.6.** The Legislature urges the Nevada Congressional
4 Delegation to support and facilitate efforts to evaluate and achieve
5 such a land exchange.

6 **Sec. 5.9.** If a land exchange is achieved, the Legislature
7 supports the transfer of title for the Gypsum Mine property to the
8 Bureau of Land Management to be managed as part of the Red Rock
9 Canyon National Conservation Area.

10 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

