

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF THE  
TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY AND  
THE MARLETTE LAKE WATER SYSTEM)

PREFILED JANUARY 31, 2015

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,  
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to facilitate the payment of  
contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment  
projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to  
contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council.  
(BDR R-431)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to facilitate  
the payment of contractors who completed hazardous  
fuels treatment projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant  
to contracts with the Nevada Fire Safe Council.

1 WHEREAS, In 1999, Northern Nevada experienced one of the  
2 worst wildfire years on record, with more than 1.6 million acres  
3 burned and significant economic and environmental impacts; and

4 WHEREAS, In the spring of 1999, a resolution was approved at  
5 Nevada’s first comprehensive fire conference, known as the “Living  
6 With Fire Forum,” which urged the establishment of a statewide  
7 council to provide support to make homes, neighborhoods and  
8 communities in Nevada safe from fire; and

9 WHEREAS, The Nevada Fire Safe Council was formed as a  
10 domestic nonprofit corporation on December 10, 1999, and received  
11 appropriations from the Nevada Legislature in 2005 and 2007 to



1 administer a community-based wildfire threat reduction program;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, By March 2007, the Council had grown to include  
4 60 affiliated chapters and 3,515 members; and

5 WHEREAS, The Angora Fire in the summer of 2007 burned more  
6 than 250 structures on private property and more than 3,000 acres in  
7 the Lake Tahoe Basin, and further amplified the existing need for  
8 mitigation work to reduce the threat of wildfire in communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 2008 and 2012, the Council was awarded  
10 over \$21 million in federal reimbursement grants to be used to pay  
11 public and private entities for the completion of hazardous fuels  
12 treatment projects; and

13 WHEREAS, In July 2011, the Office of Inspector General of the  
14 United States Department of Agriculture initiated an audit of the  
15 Council's records after receiving a complaint on its hotline alleging  
16 that the Council was awarding certain contracts in a noncompetitive  
17 manner; and

18 WHEREAS, The audit report issued by the Inspector General in  
19 January 2012 indicated various accounting irregularities in the  
20 Council's administration of the federal reimbursement grant money  
21 and resulted in the freezing of reimbursement payments of that grant  
22 money for completed projects until the accounting deficiencies were  
23 corrected; and

24 WHEREAS, In November 2012, the Council filed for bankruptcy  
25 and ceased operations; and

26 WHEREAS, As a result of the freezing of reimbursement  
27 payments and the Council's bankruptcy, various public and private  
28 entities that had completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in the  
29 Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to agreements with the Council have not  
30 been paid for their services, which has caused significant economic  
31 hardship to those entities; and

32 WHEREAS, On March 20, 2014, California Assemblyman Brian  
33 Dahle and his staff were joined by staff from the offices of United  
34 States Representatives Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock to share  
35 their concerns about the outstanding debts of the Council and to  
36 explore solutions with Nevada's Legislative Committee for the  
37 Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and  
38 the Marlette Lake Water System; and now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
40 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the  
41 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to facilitate the payment  
42 of contractors who completed hazardous fuels treatment projects in  
43 the Lake Tahoe Basin pursuant to contracts with the Nevada Fire  
44 Safe Council; and be it further



1       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and  
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Attorney General of the  
3 United States, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the  
4 Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Vice President of  
5 the United States as the presiding officer of the United States  
6 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each  
7 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further  
8       RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
9 passage.

