

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 13—Assemblywoman Swank

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the enactment and use of the Antiquities Act and the designation of the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument in this State.

WHEREAS, The provisions of 54 U.S.C. § 320301, commonly referred to as the “Antiquities Act,” authorize the President of the United States to designate as national monuments any historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are located on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The Gold Butte National Monument was designated as a national monument under the Antiquities Act to protect and preserve approximately 300,000 acres of public lands in Clark County, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Gila Monsters, Desert Tortoises and other species of concern live in the Gold Butte National Monument; and

WHEREAS, As a way to honor their ancestral lands, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe have supported the designation of the Gold Butte National Monument because it is rich with cultural artifacts and sublime petroglyphs; and

WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument was designated as a national monument under the Antiquities Act to protect and preserve approximately 700,000 acres of public land in Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument provides vital habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep, Gila Monsters, Rocky Mountain Elk, mule deer, various kinds of sagebrush and many other species of concern; and

WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument protects many cultural artifacts which date from the early human inhabitants of the area encompassed by the Basin and Range National Monument to the creation of one of the world’s greatest works of art, entitled “City,” by world renowned artist Michael Heizer; and

WHEREAS, Hunting, hiking and hundreds of miles of motorized access are allowed in both the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument; and



WHEREAS, The residents of this State have long benefitted from the designation of the Lehman Caves National Monument by former President of the United States Warren G. Harding and the subsequent inclusion of the Lehman Caves National Monument in the Great Basin National Park; and

WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation activities generate approximately \$15 billion dollars in direct consumer spending each year in the State of Nevada and approximately \$1 billion dollars in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The designation of the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte Monument will increase tourism and protect important wildlife habitat and cultural resources in this State; and

WHEREAS, Former President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt first used the Antiquities Act in 1906 and 16 former presidents in the last 111 years, of whom 8 were Republicans and 8 were Democrats, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the natural, cultural and historic heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The designation of national monuments is a uniquely American idea and the Antiquities Act was enacted to preserve worthy public lands as national monuments for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Many unique sites, including, without limitation, the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty and sites that celebrate and memorialize American history from slavery to civil rights battles, have been protected under the Antiquities Act; and

WHEREAS, The designation of national monuments provides additional protections for public lands which are held in trust for all Americans, including public lands which are available for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, grazing, tribal wood and herbal gathering and other historical uses; and

WHEREAS, The beneficial use of renewable land, water and wildlife resources is essential to the long-term economy of this State; and

WHEREAS, The management of national monuments is guided by plans developed with input from state, local and tribal governments, members of the public and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Landscapes which are protected and remain intact are important to cultural and traditional activities for all residents of this State; and

WHEREAS, National monuments which recognize and protect the contributions, histories, cultures and spiritual beliefs of tribal communities and communities of color are some of the most



precious public lands of the United States and are deserving of protection and are important in telling a more complete and inclusive history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Recent polls indicate that approximately 81 percent of the residents of this State support keeping in place existing national monuments such as the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature affirm and support the designation of the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument under the Antiquities Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature supports the enactment and use of the Antiquities Act as a critical tool for protecting the public good by authorizing the designation of national monuments under the Antiquities Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges Congress to oppose any efforts to weaken the Antiquities Act or to reverse the designation of any national monument under the Antiquities Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation.

