

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15—COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

MARCH 27, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to enact federal legislation relating  
to national monuments. (BDR R-333)

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 Congress to enact  
federal legislation relating to national monuments.

1 WHEREAS, The Antiquities Act of 1906, 54 U.S.C. §§ 320301-  
2 320303, authorizes the President of the United States to declare by  
3 public proclamation as a national monument certain “historic  
4 landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of  
5 historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or  
6 controlled by the Federal Government”; and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls over  
8 85 percent of the land in Nevada; and

9 WHEREAS, Nevada has an abundance of natural resources, many  
10 of which are located on public lands managed and controlled by the  
11 Federal Government; and

12 WHEREAS, The Antiquities Act directs the President to confine  
13 the boundaries of the national monument to “the smallest area  
14 compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to  
15 be protected”; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2015, by presidential proclamation, President  
17 Barack Obama unilaterally designated 704,000 acres in the State of  
18 Nevada as the Basin and Range National Monument; and



1 WHEREAS, In 2016, by presidential proclamation, President  
2 Barack Obama unilaterally designated nearly 300,000 acres in the  
3 State of Nevada as the Gold Butte National Monument; and

4 WHEREAS, The designation of land as a national monument  
5 without input from the State regarding the possible detrimental  
6 effects on natural resource development, agriculture, tourism and  
7 other industries may create considerable hardship on regional, state  
8 and local economies; and

9 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature supports the direct  
10 involvement of the states in the establishment and expansion of  
11 national monuments under the Antiquities Act; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
13 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the  
14 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to enact legislation  
15 amending the Antiquities Act of 1906 to require the approval the  
16 Nevada Congressional Delegation prior to the designation of any  
17 future national monuments in the State of Nevada; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
19 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United  
20 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the  
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the  
22 Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
24 passage.

