

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9—SENATORS GOICOECHEA;
GANSERT, HARDY, KIECKHEFER AND SETTELMAYER

MARCH 20, 2017

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN ELLISON; AND KRAMER

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to enact legislation requiring the transfer of lands available for disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and other public lands by the Federal Government. (BDR R-190)

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 legislation requiring the transfer of lands identified as available for disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and other public lands by the Federal Government.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls more
2 than 635 million acres of land heavily concentrated in 12 western
3 states, including roughly 85 percent of all land in the State of
4 Nevada; and

5 WHEREAS, Federal agencies face difficult challenges in
6 managing those lands in Nevada and elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, The ability of local governmental entities to develop
8 infrastructure, community facilities, natural resources and economic
9 activities on federal land may be onerous, time-consuming or
10 proscribed; and

11 WHEREAS, Leasing federal lands substantially restricts the use
12 of those lands, threatens county and city projects by creating
13 uncertainties about longevity and hampers county and city
14 infrastructure by compounding complex management issues; and



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1 WHEREAS, The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
2 of 1998, Public Law 105-263, 112 Stat. 2343, which requires the
3 Secretary of the Interior to sell or transfer certain lands around Las
4 Vegas and has provided millions of dollars to the State for the
5 benefit of local school children, communities, infrastructure,
6 wildlife habitat and recreationists, is substantially limited in the
7 lands to which it applies; and

8 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management is currently
9 revising the Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan
10 intended to guide future decisions regarding the use, management
11 and disposal of thousands of acres of federal land surrounding the
12 city; and

13 WHEREAS, Although federal lands may be disposed of in
14 compliance with federal laws, including the Recreation and Public
15 Purposes Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 869 et seq., those federal lands are
16 routinely not transferred to local governmental entities, leaving
17 many strategically located parcels of land interspersed with, or
18 adjacent to, locally owned lands that are underutilized or completely
19 undeveloped; and

20 WHEREAS, Community leaders, nonprofit organizations, private
21 entities and residents of this State have expressed the belief that
22 federal lands in and around cities and counties in this State can and
23 should be used more effectively; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
25 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That Congress is urged to enact legislation
26 requiring the Secretary of the Interior to transfer any lands identified
27 as potentially available for disposal by the Federal Government
28 under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to this State or a local
29 governmental entity in which those lands are located upon
30 submission of a request to transfer those lands; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That Congress is urged to enact legislation to
32 require the transfer of all other public lands available for disposal, in
33 accordance with applicable law, to this State or a local governmental
34 or nonprofit entity to enable the beneficial use of those lands; and be
35 it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
37 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
38 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
39 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of
40 the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Chief of
41 the United States Forest Service, the Regional Forester of the
42 Intermountain Region of the United States Forest Service, the
43 Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Field Manager
44 of the Las Vegas Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management;
45 and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
2 passage.

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