

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9–
Committee on Education

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for the Nevada System of Higher Education to work collaboratively in its science and research efforts addressing the needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

WHEREAS, The Lake Tahoe Basin exhibits unique environmental and ecological conditions that are irreplaceable; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature has recognized that Nevada has a compelling interest in preserving, protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin, which is a matter of such significance that it must be carried out on a continual basis; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada, in collaboration with the State of California, federal agencies, local governments, the private sector and nonprofit organizations, has provided continuous investment in the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the Lake Tahoe Basin through the implementation of projects identified in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, The role of science in guiding decision-making is critical to the successful implementation of policies and environmental restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and

WHEREAS, The role of science in guiding decision-making has become more imperative due to emerging issues such as climate change and increased visitation, which are placing even greater pressures on the health of the ecosystem in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has recently completed a State Climate Strategy, which is an integrated, economy-wide roadmap for the State to accelerate climate action necessary to achieve Nevada's climate goals and which:

1. Provides a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions set by the Nevada Legislature in 2019;
2. Lays the groundwork for the bold actions necessary to improve Nevada's resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change; and
3. Establishes a Nevada-specific structure for continued, ongoing climate action across the state; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada, through the Nevada State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, entered into a



Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California, through the California Natural Resources Agency, to establish the Tahoe Bi-State Executive Committee to coordinate science and research activities and create the non-regulatory Tahoe Science Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Comprised of scientific experts from research institutions and public agencies, including the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute, the focus of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council is to provide objective research and scientific analysis that will help support decision-makers of both Nevada and California to meet their obligation to advance attainment of environmental thresholds in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and

WHEREAS, The Tahoe Science Advisory Council has developed a “Science to Action Plan (Aquatic)” to provide decision-relevant science that informs policy and land management decisions and anticipates critical emerging issues that have impacts on the water quality and health of the aquatic ecosystem of Lake Tahoe; and

WHEREAS, The Tahoe Science Advisory Council has also developed a “Science to Action Plan (Upland)” that identifies necessary research needs, placing a priority on issues such as forest health and fire dynamics, the linkages between land and water ecosystems and biological integrity, in order to promote environmental resilience, protect resources, adapt to emerging issues and enhance ecological and community sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Funding to complete the necessary research identified in both action plans has not been identified and collaboration among Nevada’s research institutions will be essential to ensure completion of the action plans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby encourage and support the Nevada System of Higher Education to work collaboratively among its institutions to coordinate all research, science, and other analysis focused on addressing the specific needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin in alignment with Nevada’s State Climate Strategy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby recognize and express their support for carrying out necessary research to address emerging issues in the Lake Tahoe Basin in order to guide policy and land management decisions in the Basin and for the critical role of science in guiding environmental protection and restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and be it further



RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby recommend that the Nevada System of Higher Education enhance coordination and collaborative efforts with the Nevada State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and other state and federal agencies, as appropriate, to strategically align the Nevada System of Higher Education's science and research efforts with policy goals, including Nevada's State Climate Strategy, that are established by relevant agencies, including the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and other stakeholders in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Program Officer of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council, the Director of the Nevada State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, the President of the University of Nevada, Reno, the President of the Desert Research Institute, the President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the President of the University of California, Davis and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

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