

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

October 6, 2017

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Brandon Miller
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Hearing: **Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2630 (Rep. Paul Gosar)**, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes, “*La Paz County Land Conveyance Act.*”
October 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.; 1334 Longworth HOB.

H.R. 2630 (Rep. Paul Gosar), “*La Paz County Land Conveyance Act.*”

Bill Summary

H.R. 2630, introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-04) directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 8,000 acres of Federal Land to La Paz County, Arizona for the construction of a solar field.

Cosponsors

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ-05), Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ-08), Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-09)

Invited Witnesses

Panel I

The Honorable Paul Gosar

Member of Congress, Arizona 4th District

Panel II

Mr. D.L. Wilson

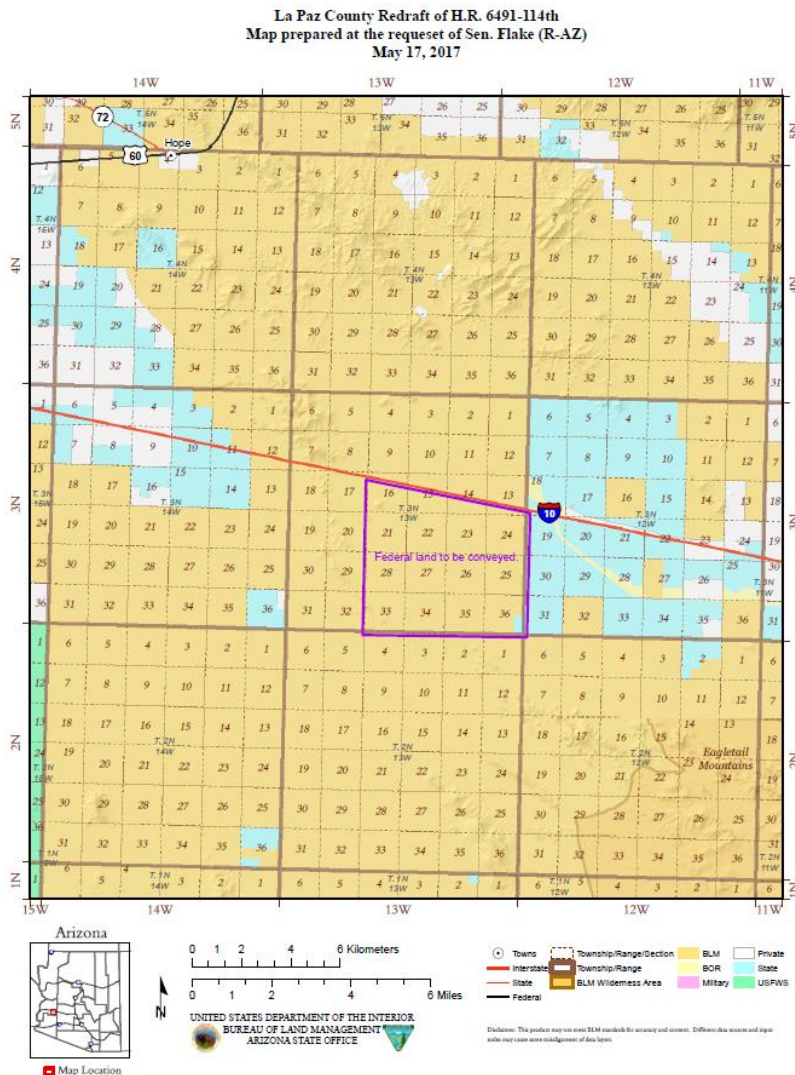
Supervisor (District 1) and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
La Paz County, Arizona

Background

Nearly 95% of La Paz County, Arizona, is owned by Federal, State, or Tribal governments, with 61% of the Federal ownership controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.¹ Uniquely positioned between the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Southern

¹ Arizona Department of Transportation, “La Paz Transportation Planning Study Final Report,” Page 25, June 2010, https://apps.azdot.gov/ADOTLibrary/Multimodal_Planning_Division/Planning_Assistance_for_Rural_Areas_Studies/PARA-La_Paz_Transportation_Planning_Study-FR-1006.pdf

California, the county seeks a land conveyance from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide ground for the construction of a solar field.



The county has already worked with the BLM to identify a site adjacent to preexisting and proposed electric, fiber optic, and natural gas transmission lines. Review of the proposed site by the BLM has not revealed any endangered species or historic resources in the area, and much of the proposed site already has a significant amount of surface disturbance.²

La Paz County is 27% Latino, 18% Native American, and currently has an unemployment rate nearly 2% higher than the national average.³ Not only would this land conveyance help provide renewable energy to both the Southern California and Phoenix markets, but it would help bring a new, family-wage jobs to the county.

Source: Bureau of Land Management; provided by Rep. Gosar's office (AZ-04)

Administration Position

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

² Information provided to the Committee by Rep. Gosar's office (AZ-04)

³ U.S. Census Bureau, "La Paz County Statistics," U.S. Census Quickfacts, July 1, 2016, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lapazcountyarizona/PST045216>