

Douglas County Board of County Commissioners

AGENDA ACTION SHEET

Title: For Possible Action. Discussion to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Douglas County Conservation Bill. (Lawrence Werner)

Recommended Motion: Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Douglas County Conservation Bill.

Financial Impact: None

Prepared by: Natalie Wood, Admin. Services Manager

Meeting Date: April 5, 2018 **Time Required:** 10 Minutes

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: This action is being requested to show the County's continued support of the Douglas County Conservation Bill. The proposed letter of support is attached.

Agenda Item # 0



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1594 Esmeralda Avenue, Minden, Nevada 89423

Lawrence A. Werner
COUNTY MANAGER
775-782-9821

COMMISSIONERS:
Steven J. Thaler, CHAIRMAN
Barry Penzel, VICE-CHAIRMAN
Nancy McDermid
Larry Walsh
Dave Nelson

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Amodei
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Heller, Senator Cortez Masto and Congressman Amodei,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, I want to request your support for the reintroduction of the Douglas County Conservation Act during this session of Congress. As you know, the Douglas County Conservation Act has been a priority for many years, dating back to 2009.

This legislation will help Douglas County accomplish important flood management objectives through the conservation of the floodplain along the Carson River and by obtaining federal parcels for the construction of flood control detention basins. The legislation also provides opportunities for economic development in Douglas County while preserving the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Study Area. Importantly, the bill will convey cultural lands of importance to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

We thank you in advance for your continued sponsorship of this critically important legislation to Douglas County. Please let me know if there is any further information we may provide.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Thaler
Chairman

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 218, Minden, NV 89423

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California



Via Regular Mail and Email: sthaler@douglasnv.us

May 2, 2018

Mr. Steve Thaler
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
1594 Esmeralda Avenue
P.O. Box 218
Minden, NV 89423

Re: Washoe Tribal Council Letter of Support for Douglas County Lands Bill

Dear Chairman Thaler:

I am writing to you with the formal authorization of the Tribal Council of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California ("Washoe Tribal Council") to express tribal governmental support for the Douglas County Lands Bill as it is currently being developed.

At the April 27, 2018 meeting of the Washoe Tribal Council, accompanying Resolution No. 2018-04-WTC-035, expressing tribal governmental support for the Douglas County Lands Bill, was read aloud, debated and adopted. That resolution reads in pertinent part:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washoe Tribal Council supports the Douglas County Lands Bill as it is currently being developed and authorizes the Tribal Chairman to prepare and transmit a letter to appropriate federal, state and county authorities expressing that support.

Both the Washoe Tribal Constitution and the Vision Statement of the Washoe Tribe affirm the importance of preserving, reviving and living the Washoe culture and traditions on safe and secure Tribal lands. Over many decades the Tribe has successfully pursued the return of much of its ancestral homeland, most recently through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-11, § 2601, 123 Stat. 991, 1108-17 (2009), under which federal acreage in Carson City was transferred in trust to the Tribe, including lands adjacent to the Carson Colony and the Stewart Community and, for the first time since contact, land on Lake Tahoe.

Since 2009 Washoe Tribal officials have been working with Douglas County officials and Nevada's congressional delegation on a Douglas County Lands Bill under which several

thousand acres currently owned and managed by federal agencies in Douglas County would be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") of the U.S. Department of the Interior to be held permanently in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Washoe Tribe.

Among the most important provisions of the Douglas County Lands Bill to the Washoe Tribe are the following: (1) provisions transferring the Uhalde parcel and Allotment 231, both currently owned by the Tribe in fee, to the BIA to be held permanently in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Washoe Tribe, (2) the sections of the bill that provide for the preservation and protection of Tribal cultural assets, and (3) any section of the bill that increases the tribal land base by placing new lands in Douglas County in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Washoe Tribe.

In addition to expressing tribal support for the Douglas County Lands Bill, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Douglas County officials and our state congressional delegation for the many years of hard work and ceaseless effort they have invested to make this landmark legislation become a reality. The Washoe Tribe is deeply grateful for all that you have done to help our people. Your generous efforts on our behalf will be remembered for generations to come.

Thank you so much for your attention and cooperation. We look forward to working with you to secure final passage of the Douglas County Lands Bill in the current 115th session of Congress.

Best regards,



R. Neil Mortimer
Chairman

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE
WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA**

- WHEREAS,** the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is organized pursuant to the Provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, to exercise certain rights of home rule and to be responsible for the general welfare of its membership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Washoe Tribal Council is empowered by Section 1(c) of Article VI of the Washoe Tribal Constitution to approve or veto any sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of tribal lands, interests in lands, or other tribal assets of the Washoe Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council is empowered by Section 1(e) of Article VI of the Washoe Constitution to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Washoe Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the vision statement of the Washoe Tribe affirms the importance of preserving, reviving and living the Washoe culture and traditions on safe and secure Tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** over many decades the Tribe has successfully pursued return of many of its traditional homelands to Tribal ownership, most recently through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-11, § 2601, 123 Stat. 991, 1108-17 (2009), under which federal acreage in Carson City was transferred in trust to the Tribe, including lands adjacent to the Carson Colony and the Stewart Community and, for the first time since contact, the Tribe took ownership of land on Lake Tahoe; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2009 Washoe Tribal leaders and managers have been working with Douglas County leaders and managers and with Nevada's U.S. Senators and Representatives on a Douglas County Lands Bill, under which several thousand acres currently owned and managed by federal agencies in Douglas County would be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held permanently in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Washoe Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** under the Douglas County Lands Bill, the Uhalde parcel and Allotment 231, both currently owned by the Tribe in fee, would be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held permanently in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Washoe Tribe; and

Resolution No. 2018-04-WTC-035

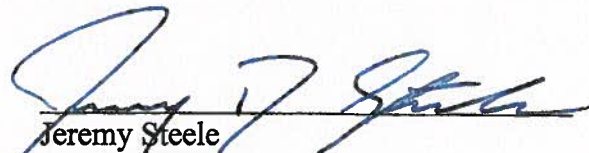
WHEREAS, the Douglas County Lands Bill contains additional provisions for the preservation and protection of Tribal cultural assets, and

WHEREAS, the Washoe Tribal Council is in support of the Douglas County Lands Bill as it is currently being developed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washoe Tribal Council supports the Douglas County Lands Bill as it is currently being developed and authorizes the Tribal Chairman to prepare and transmit a letter to appropriate federal, state and county authorities expressing that support.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the Washoe Tribal Council is the governing body of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California composed of **twelve (12)** members of whom **eleven (11)**, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly held on the **27th** day of **April, 2018** and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of **ten (10)** for, **zero (0)** against, and **one (1)** abstention pursuant to the authority contained in Article VI, Section 1(h) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.


Jeremy Steele
Secretary / Treasurer

4/30/18
Date

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California





**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

PO BOX 9257
MISSOULA, MT 59807
406-926-1908

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I write to express our support for Title IV of the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (H.R. 3173). Title IV, cited as the Ruby Mountains Protection Act, would withdraw 309,272 acres of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and 39,926 acres of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas leasing.

The Ruby Mountains in northeastern Nevada are a premiere destination for sportsmen and women. They are immensely valuable to hunters by providing a critical migratory corridor for the largest mule deer herd in the state and habitat for the imperiled greater sage-grouse. Anglers can pursue the highly sought after Lahontan cutthroat trout, Nevada's state fish, in the region's mountain streams and alpine lakes.

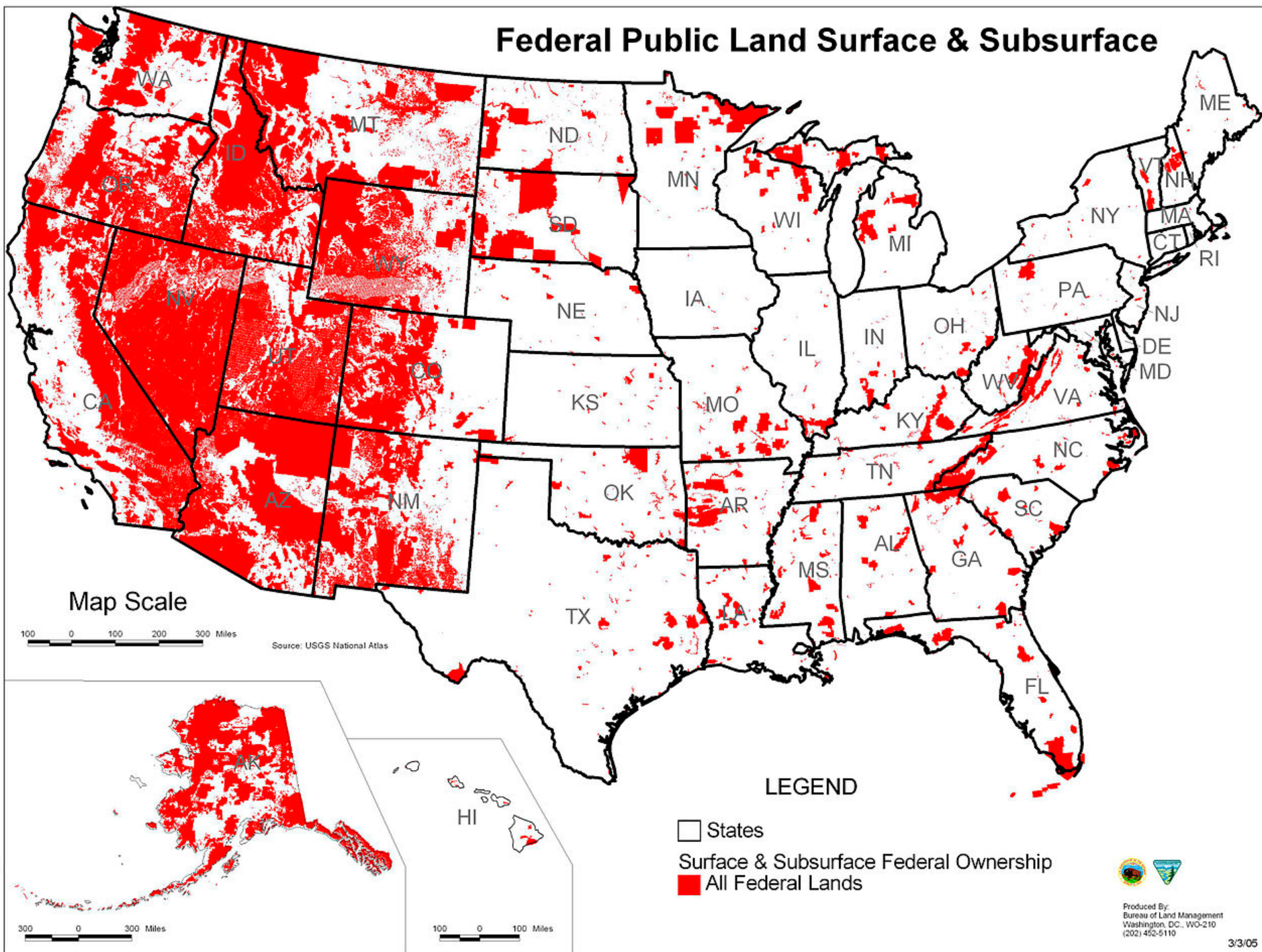
In 2019, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) determined that approximately 54,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains were unsuitable for oil and gas leasing. The USFS cited limited geologic potential for drilling in the area under consideration and concerns regarding impacts to wildlife values. Immediately following the determination by the USFS in 2019, a private entity filed Expressions of Interest to lease in the region. Despite being classified as having no or low potential for oil and gas, the Ruby Mountains continue to be threatened by speculative leasing and associated development.

Once again, BHA shares our support for Title IV of H.R. 3173 and we would like to thank the committee for holding a hearing on this legislation that would conserve our nation's public lands enjoyed by all Americans. Withdrawing these lands from leasing would protect an intact landscape from habitat fragmentation and ensure the health of a crucial watershed while continuing to manage the region for multiple use. Doing so is in the interest of fish and wildlife as well as hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts who recreate on these public lands.

Sincerely,

Kaden McArthur
Government Relations Manager
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Federal Public Land Surface & Subsurface



**CITY OF FERNLEY
RESOLUTION 20-005**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FERNLEY, NEVADA SUPPORTING
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE FERNLEY LANDS CONVEYANCE BILL
INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN MARK AMODEI, AND OTHER MATTERS
PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.**

WHEREAS, since incorporation ins 2001, the City of Fernley, Nevada has been working with private business partners and state and federal reginal agencies to develop a long-term sustainable economic development plan that would enable all parties to benefit from the use of private land within the City of Fernley for potential commercial and industrial development, agriculture activities, recreation opportunities, and the expansion of community and cultural events;

WHEREAS, long-term sustainable economic development referred to above requires the conveyance of certain Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation to the City for consideration in an amount equal to the fair market value of Federal land;

WHEREAS, the Federal land to be conveyed to the City under the sustainable development plan has very few environmental, historical, wildlife, or cultural resources of value to the public, but is appropriate for responsible development;

WHEREAS, the Federal land that would be conveyed to the City under Congressional Action is within the boundaries of the City and would be used to enhance recreational, cultural, commercial, and industrial development opportunities in the City for future development, public use, and as open space in the City, and will allow the City to provide critical infrastructure services;

WHEREAS, commercial and industrial development of the Federal land would enable the community to benefit from the transportation, power, and water infrastructure that would be put in place with the concurrent development of commercial and industrial operations;

WHEREAS, the conveyance of the Federal land would help the City and rural region to grow and provide additional tax revenue to the City, County, and State; industrial and commercial development of the Federal land would create thousands of long-term, high-paying jobs for the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, as the governing body of the City of Fernley, on behalf of our constituents, support and encourage Congressional Action on the Federal Lands Conveyance Bill;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Fernley's Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 18th day of March, 2020.


By:



Roy Edgington, Mayor
Fernley, Nevada

ATTEST:

By



Kim Swanson, City Clerk
Fernley, Nevada

September 14, 2020

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
Senator Jacky Rosen
Congressman Mark Amodei



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

RE: Letter of Support for the Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act (S. 2890)

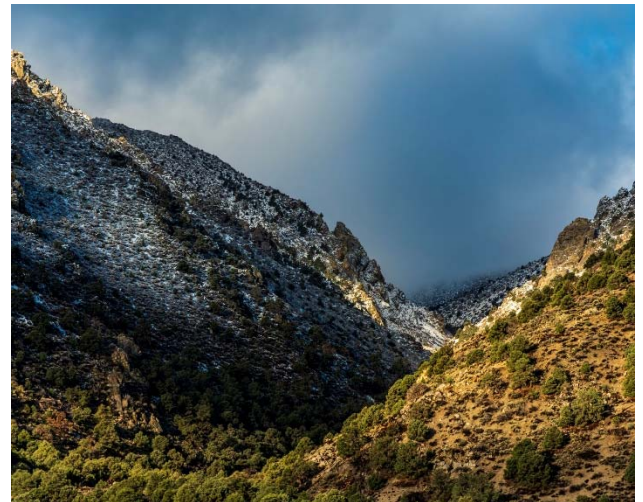
Dear Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Senator Jacky Rosen and Congressman Mark Amodei:

This letter is to offer Friends of Nevada Wilderness support for S2890, especially the portion of the bill that designates Burbank Canyons as Wilderness.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness began working with Douglas County and other stakeholders a decade ago. We appreciate the efforts of the Nevada delegation over these years working with local elected officials, various stakeholders, the Washoe Tribe and land management agencies to resolve numerous public lands opportunities and issues within Douglas County.

While this bill addresses many important issues the one that has been most important for Friends of Nevada Wilderness is Wilderness designation for the small but beautiful Burbank Canyons. Many of our members have enjoyed hiking and camping in the area and love the wildlife found here. Over the years our members have also relished working in partnership with the Carson City District BLM doing volunteer projects in the Burbank Canyons area.

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure passage of S 2890 passed this year. It is heartening to see our delegation continuing to work across party lines for Nevada.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shaaron Netherton".

Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

JENIFER DAVIDSON
County Manager

SCOTT MORGAN
Assistant County Manager



1594 Esmeralda Avenue
Minden, Nevada 89423

www.douglascountynv.gov
775-782-9821

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Tom Tiffany
Chair, U.S. House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Congressman Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, U.S. House Natural
Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (H.R. 3173)

Dear Chair Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, I express our support for the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (H.R. 3173). Title I improves public lands management in Douglas County through important land conveyances and includes important conservation priorities reflecting a decade of community stakeholder engagement, outreach, and support on each provision.

The Douglas County land provisions in Title I represent two decades of Douglas County's planning effort and implement the important goals and policies outlined in Douglas County's Master Plan and its Open Space and Agricultural Lands Preservation Implementation plan. Our community continues to experience significant flood events as recently as this year. The bill enables us to better protect public safety and property by conveying 7,777 acres of federal land for public purposes—mainly to accomplish important flood management objectives and enhance access to public recreation. In 2017, our community experienced a 20-year FEMA flood event. With the ability to do meaningful flood prevention work on federal lands with a Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease, we can ensure the communities near those acres will have adequate flood detention basins to ensure their property remains protected from flood events. The threat of flooding has been constant in recent years as severe snowstorms hit Lake Tahoe and our region.

H.R. 3173 facilitates additional economic development opportunities for Douglas County by directing the Secretary to coordinate with the County on the sale of certain lands (31.5 acres) and other federal lands already identified for federal disposal in the County. The bill provides a mechanism for conservation easements to be placed along the floodplain along the Carson River, which aligns with our goal to maintain the agricultural heritage that defines our community.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 218, Minden, NV 89423

We will also be able to expand access to recreation for our residents and visitors. H.R. 3173 creates recreational opportunities by conveying 1,084 acres for an open space recreation area and it directs the U.S. Forest Service to issue special use permits in a timely manner for certain areas important for recreation enthusiasts. We understand that federal resources are constrained so these permits will allow the County to administer recreation and camping areas, parks, and trails located on federal lands throughout the County. Finally, the bill allows the county to preserve habitat for a distinct population of the bi-state Sage Grouse, maintain access to important roads and grazing rights, all while resolving the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Study Area.

We have been actively coordinating and collaborating with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California since the bill's inception. The Tribe identified 2,669 acres of federal lands that were important for protecting and preserving cultural resources and enhancing economic development opportunities. These lands will be held in trust.

The Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act improves public land management and conservation while enhancing the economic vitality of our region. Thank you for holding a hearing on this important legislation. It is important for this bill to become law so that we can provide critical public services for our residents and protect the cultural and agricultural heritage of our region. Please let me know if there is additional information that we can provide to you and your staff regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenifer Davidson', is written over the typed name and title.

Jenifer Davidson
Douglas County Manager



CARSON CITY, NEVADA
CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chair
House Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Carson City Lands Bill Technical Map Corrections
Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023**

Dear Chair Westerman and Chair Tiffany:

Since 2006, the Carson City Board of Supervisors, managers and staff have worked with the Nevada Congressional Delegation and the Bureau of Land Management to maximize economic use of federally-owned real property and to enhance and protect property for open space, recreation and other public purposes.

Following the transfer of public lands through the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, the Carson City Board of Supervisors identified technical map corrections it would like to make. On November 15, 2018, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Resolution No. 2018-R-36 in support of those proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill and there have been no community protests.

I am writing to respectfully request your support of the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023 which contains these technical map corrections. There have been no changes to this request since the Resolution was passed in 2018 and the Carson City Board of Supervisors continues to support this very important request.

We appreciate your continued support to make Carson City "Proud of its Past ... Confident of its Future."

Best regards,

Mayor Lori Bagwell
Carson City, Nevada

LORI BAGWELL, MAYOR
201 N. Carson Street Suite 2 Carson City, Nevada 89701
Office: (775)887-2100 Fax: (775)887-2286
Email: lbagwell@carson.org



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

**Testimony of Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director
Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

**Hearing on HR 3173 “Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act”
May 10, 2023**

**For the record of the legislative hearing held on March 7, 2024
In the House Committee on Natural Resources
Federal Lands Subcommittee**

Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse, on behalf of Friends of Nevada Wilderness please accept these comments in support of HR 3173, the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023 especially Titles I, IV and VI. We express our sincere appreciation to Congressman Mark Amodei for his unflinching support to this important legislation.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as wilderness, protecting all present and potential wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of and need for wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wild lands. Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been working on wilderness protection and public land legislation since 1985.

I would like to express appreciation for the Nevada delegation’s continued support for local efforts to resolve issues on public lands. Nevadans know how to come to the table in good faith and work together to develop comprehensive bills that enhance economic development, conserve public lands, improve recreation opportunities, and preserve Nevada’s rural way of life.

As a long time Nevadan who has lived in both rural and urban parts of the state, working on public lands bills across the state has given me a deep appreciation for the broad spectrum of people that call Nevada home. Working together with county commissioners, ranchers, landowners, sportsmen, miners, exploration geologists, recreationists and townspeople has helped me understand that that while we all have differences, we share more in common than what divides us. In general, Nevadans care deeply about their public lands. Through recreation and work these lands help shape who we are as Nevadans. We care about quality of life for ourselves and our kids and grandkids, we care about having good habitat for our diverse wildlife, and we care about the wide-open spaces and want to see these lands managed well.

I have served as executive director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness for 24 years and before that had a career with the Bureau of Land Management for 22 years. In my role with BLM I spent much of my time working in the wilderness and recreation program across Nevada but also served as a Field Manager in

central Oregon. I think my background brings a balanced perspective to the work that Friends of Nevada Wilderness does for Wilderness and other protected lands in Nevada.

Below are comments on specific Titles of HR 3173 that Friends of Nevada Wilderness had direct involvement.

Title VI “Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act”

Nevada has a solid history and track record of stakeholders and lawmakers working together to find common ground on our public lands. The process leading up to the Pershing County bill (Title VI) resulted in protections for some spectacular landscapes, but also agreements to forgo protection for lands that may have been important to other stakeholders or for other uses. By listening to each other and finding a path forward, each of the groups working on this process were able to make gains but were also willing to give things away to end up with an outcome that was supported by all major stakeholders.

Statement on non-Wilderness sections in Title VI

While the bulk of my testimony is focused on the Wilderness sections of Title VI, Friends of Nevada Wilderness did work closely with Pershing County and many stakeholders within the county to attempt to address the pressing issues of the checkerboard land pattern that impacts much of the county. The goal of the bill is NOT to get rid of public land as some may say, but to generate funding and make it easier to block up public land like the Trinity Range within the county for wildlife habitat, recreation and access. This bill is unlikely to result in much of a net loss of public lands. Instead, working with a few of the large private land owners we would see tremendous opportunities to increase solid blocks of public lands for public purposes while at the same time blocking up lands along Interstate 80 for economic development including solar and geothermal energy production.

Background of Wilderness in Pershing County

In the 1980’s the Bureau of Land Management identified five Wilderness Study Areas within Pershing County: Selenite Mountains, Mt. Limbo, China Mountain, Tobin Range and the Augusta Mountains. The Augusta Mountain WSA (now named Cain Mountain) spanned three counties and H.R. 3173 deals only with the portion in Pershing County.

Next, during 2004 through 2006, Friends of Nevada Wilderness participated with Pershing County and other stakeholders in the Pershing County Checkerboard Committee process to look at potential wilderness designations and other lands issues, including how to resolve and consolidate the public/private checkerboard land ownership pattern along Interstate-80. While this process didn’t result in legislation, it did result in a good place for taking up the effort again in 2015.

Using those 2006 wilderness recommendations as a starting point, the Pershing County Commission, with various stakeholders, initiated a process in 2015 to work on a Pershing County Public Lands Bill. Meetings continued through 2016, and during that time, there were many formal and informal meetings with various stakeholders about wilderness and other portions of the bill. We had extensive contact

with the ranchers reviewing detailed boundaries, access needs for water developments and other ranching needs.

In order to create the strongest wilderness proposal possible, Friends of Nevada Wilderness reached out to the ranchers who had grazing permits within the wilderness proposals. This included multiple meetings at their ranches, field tours (driving, foot and horseback riding) and then checking and rechecking maps to ensure the boundaries and access routes were correct. After extensive meetings, ranchers had a good understanding of how wilderness designation could impact their operations. I will share one of those stories with you.

Grandfathers' Wilderness Story

The entire Tobin Crest supports the productive sustainable rangeland and the critical watersheds that adjacent ranches depend upon. The crest is laced with cold, clear springs which in turn are the heads of a series of steep, rugged and beautiful watersheds. There are a number of important ranching outfits on the west flank and the Saval/Buffalo Valley ranch along the entire east flank that thrive because of these waters. In addition, the Saval ranch and the Siard ranch have rich historic roots that span a century of wild western history.

These ranchers helped draw the wilderness boundary for the Tobin Crest. The idea to re-name the Tobin Crest area to "Grandfathers' Wilderness" was brought forward by them. We fully support this name change as a way to honor their grandfathers who started ranching at the base of this mountain crest 100 years ago. The name also honors the lasting legacy and living heritage of the ranching way of life in Nevada. By preserving this area under the name of "Grandfathers' Wilderness" we also honor all of those who came before, living in the wide-open spaces of Nevada.

Wilderness HR 3173 Title VI Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act

Title VI of HR 3173 would:

- Designate seven areas as wilderness totaling about 136,000 acres. These wilderness areas would be managed under the provisions in the 1964 Wilderness Act.
- The wilderness language in HR 3173 is the Nevada language that has been used for several decades for public lands bills within the state.
- Adjust boundaries of WSAs to resolve longstanding management concerns and conflicts.
- Allows Pershing County to settle the long-standing WSAs once and for all.

These seven areas represent a cross section of some of the most beautiful lands in Pershing County. They offer great wildlife habitat, breathtaking vistas of the expansive Nevada scenery and little-known places to get away. As development continues in Pershing County, these wilderness areas will retain their wild character for future generations.

Wilderness Name	Acres in H.R. 3173	Original WSA Acres	Acres Released from WSA
Cain Mountain (Formerly Augusta Mountain WSA)	12,339	24,489 (In Pershing County*)	12,200
Bluewing	24,900	0	N/A
Selenite Peak	22,822	32,041	9,100
Mt. Limbo	11,855	23,702	13,100
North Sahwave	13,875	0	N/A
Grandfathers' (Includes portions of China Mountain and Tobin Range WSAs along with Tobin Crest)	35,339	10,358 (China Mtn WSA)	2,200 (China Mtn. WSA)
		13,107 (Tobin Range WSA)	12,000 (Tobin Range WSA)
Fencemaker	14,942	0	N/A
Totals	136,072	103,697	48,600

* The remainder of this WSA was addressed in NDAA FY 23 where portions of the WSA in Lander and Churchill County were designated as wilderness and portions were released from wilderness.

Wilderness Study Area Released in Title VI Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act

HR 3173 would:

- Release about 48,600 acres of Wilderness Study Areas in portions of the Augusta Mountain, China Mountain, Mt. Limbo, Selenite Mountains, and Tobin Range wilderness study areas.
- Release the lower slopes of the ranges where most of the cherrystem roads, range developments and weed infestations are located.
- Eliminate lower value wilderness study area acres, reduce conflicts and management concerns and focus protection on the higher value wilderness.
- Offset some of the released wilderness study area acres for the higher wilderness value areas of the Tobin Crest (Grandfathers' Wilderness) and the inclusion of North Sahwave, Bluewing, and Fencemaker, areas identified for wilderness during the Pershing County Checkerboard Land Process.

Why are there areas being considered that are not wilderness study areas?

During the Checkerboard Lands Committee process sponsored by Pershing County Commission over the period of time from 2004-2006, wilderness was one of the topics addressed. After a series of meetings and field trips, the Checkerboard Committee recommended to the Pershing County Commission that North Sahwave, Bluewing, Fencemaker, and Tobin Crest areas be considered for wilderness. The compromises made at that time were agreements to completely release the Selenite WSA and well as large portions of Mt. Limbo WSA and the Tobin Range WSA. This proposal was then adopted by the Pershing County Commission on March 1, 2006.

When the Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management began working on identifying resource inventory information as a part of the Winnemucca Resource Management Plan (RMP), the BLM included the four non-WSA areas identified by the Checkerboard Lands Committee as having wilderness values since they were identified through a public process sponsored by the Pershing County Commission. When the Winnemucca BLM RMP was finalized, North Sahwave, Bluewing, Fencemaker, and Tobin Crest (now Grandfathers') were included as part of the final Record of Decision for the management plan.

When the Pershing County lands bill process started up again in 2014, these recommendations were brought forward as the starting place for new discussions.

The end result is legislation that resolves longstanding land tenure issues, promotes economic development, enhances recreation, protects some of Pershing County's wildest lands, and preserves Nevada's rural way of life. Nevada's counties which are made up overwhelmingly by public lands and over and over again across the state diverse stakeholders have come together to develop comprehensive county-based legislation done the Nevada way. Sometimes these processes create new friendships, develop trust and result in better ways of working together across other issues.

Title I "Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act"

Friends of Nevada Wilderness supports Title I, the Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act, especially the portion of that title that designates Burbank Canyons as Wilderness.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness began working with Douglas County and other stakeholders over a decade ago. We appreciate the efforts of the Nevada delegation over these years working with local elected officials, various stakeholders, the Washoe Tribe and land management agencies to resolve numerous public lands opportunities and issues within Douglas County.

While this bill addresses many important issues the one that has been most important for Friends of Nevada Wilderness is Wilderness designation for the small but beautiful Burbank Canyons. Many of our members have enjoyed hiking and camping in the area and love the wildlife found here. Over the years our members have also relished working in partnership with the Carson City District BLM doing volunteer projects in the Burbank Canyons area.

Title IV “Ruby Mountains Leasing Act”

Title IV of this bill is so important to Friends of Nevada Wilderness because we were shocked when about ten years there was a proposal to lease 54,000 acres of the Ruby Mountains for oil and gas exploration. Friends of Nevada Wilderness and many other conservation and hunting and angling groups and elected officials and community members came to together to fight this proposal. Friends of Nevada Wilderness provided comments on the impacts that could result to this amazing range if the proposal went forward. While at the end, the Forest Service did deny the proposal it shook all of us into realizing what could happened next time around.

The Ruby Mountains are characterized by high, multi-faceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire blue lakes. The "rubies" of the mountains' name are actually garnets, red semiprecious stones found in certain metamorphic rocks. Long and narrow, the Rubies stretch 100 miles and seldom get more than 10 miles wide. Nowhere else in Nevada is there such a spectacular landscape, with hanging valleys, clusters of lakes and snow-fed streams flowing down the U-shaped glacial valleys on the west side of the range. Because they were so heavily glaciated and have such abundant water, the Rubies represent the best, classic-mountain ecosystem in Nevada.

It is imperative that the Ruby Mountains should not ever again be under threat from random oil and gas speculation. That is why we applaud Congressman Amodei and Senator Cortez Masto who have worked so hard to protect the Ruby Mountains from speculative oil and gas leasing.

Contact

Friends of Nevada Wilderness appreciates the opportunity to again provide testimony in support of portions of the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2022.

Please contact Shaaron Netherton at 775 324-7667 or shaaron@nevadawilderness.org if you have any questions regarding our views on HR 3173.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PERSHING COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT**

NO. 17-0201

WHEREAS, The Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act was developed locally, with the input of numerous stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing County Board of Commissioners held multiple public meetings to gather community input into the development of the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act addresses many community needs including economic development, recreation, conservation, and land management; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act will provide important benefits for Pershing County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, The Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act is supported by diverse stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, In June 2016, the Pershing County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to support Federal legislation and requested that the Nevada Congressional delegation introduce public land legislation for Pershing County; and

WHEREAS, In July 2016, Senator Heller and Congressman Amodei introduced the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act with the support of the entire Nevada Congressional delegation; and


NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Pershing County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED That the Pershing County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that Senators Heller and Cortez Masto and Congressman Amodei re-introduce and, if possible, secure passage of, the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act in the 115th Congress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of February, 2017.



CAROL SHANK, Chair
Pershing County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: 
LACEY DONALDSON
PERSHING COUNTY CLERK



STAFF REPORT

19(A)
2018-R-36

Report To: Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: November 15, 2018

Staff Contact: Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director
Stephanie Hicks, Real Property Manager

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: To adopt a Resolution expressing support of the proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill currently being developed for congressional approval. (Adriana Fralick, AFralick@carson.org; Jennifer Budge, JBudge@carson.org and Stephanie Hicks, SHicks@carson.org)

Staff Summary: The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (OPLMA) provided for the disposition of more than 8,000 acres of federal lands within Carson City, including the sale of approximately 150 acres of federal land by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). City Staff has since identified and is proposing several technical corrections be made by Congress. On October 22, 2018, the Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the proposed technical map corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill with the exception of Federal Lands Bill Map Reference Number 4 for which no action was taken. Instead, staff was instructed to conduct additional research based on public comment received. Federal Lands Bill Map Reference Number 4 will be heard as a separate item.

Agenda Action: Resolution

Time Requested: 30 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt Resolution No. 2018-R-____, expressing support of the proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill currently being developed for congressional approval.

Board's Strategic Goal

Efficient Government

Previous Action

January 4, 2007 - Discussion regarding a Carson City Federal Lands Bill Map to identify a preferred alternative to be used as the basis to create a Federal Lands Bill for Carson City consisting of proposed legislation to be considered by U.S. Congress to allow for the exchange and/or transfer in ownership of lands owned by the federal Government in Carson City.

January 18, 2007 - Board approval of Carson City Federal Lands Bill Map to identify the preferred alternative that would be used as the basis to create a Federal Lands Bill for Carson City consisting of proposed legislation to be considered by U.S. Congress to allow for the exchange and/or transfer in ownership of lands owned by the federal government in Carson City.

August 16, 2007 - City Manager provided an update on the proposed Carson City Federal Lands Bill.

September 6, 2007 - Board authorized the Mayor to sign a letter directed to the Federal Delegation clarifying the Board of Supervisors' position regarding the Federal Lands Bill request. 399

August 21, 2008 - Board endorsed the "Carson City Vital Community Act of 2008," a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate providing for the transfer and sale of certain federal lands within Carson City.

July 16, 2009 - Presentation and discussion only regarding the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 as it relates to the disposition of federal properties within Carson City.

December 3, 2009 - Board provided recommendation to BLM regarding the sale of certain BLM properties identified for disposal in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

April 21, 2011 - Board authorized the Mayor to execute deeds of correction necessary for the implementation of transfers of lands with the U.S. Forest Service, as authorized by the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009.

August 4, 2011 - Board authorized the Mayor and City Manager to sign a letter to convey Carson City lands located at the upper reaches of Ash Canyon within the Carson Range to the United States as provided for in Subtitle G, Section 2601, of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

May 17, 2012 - Board authorized staff to execute a programmatic agreement between the Sierra Front Field Office of the Carson City BLM and the Nevada State Preservation Office regarding the conveyance to Carson City of the 5,482 acres of public lands as mandated by the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 and 489 acres of private property.

August 15, 2013 - Board authorized the deposit of approximately \$375,000 into the BLM's Silver Saddle Stewardship Account for the oversight and enforcement of the conservation easement, and the transfer of approximately 3,604 acres of federal land to Carson City, as approved by the Carson City Community Vitality Act of 2009.

April 16, 2015 - Board authorized mayor to sign a letter addressed to the BLM providing comments on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Background/Issues & Analysis

On January 6, 2009, OPLMA was enacted by Congress to determine the desired future uses of Federal properties surrounding Carson City. This bill was the result of three years of collaboration between City officials, interest groups and Congressional delegates with technical input from Federal agencies.

OPLMA provided for the disposition of more than 8,000 acres of Federal lands within Carson City, including the sale of approximately 150 acres of Federal land by BLM. The purpose of the bill was to improve land management throughout Carson City and help fulfill the community's long-term plan for growth and conservation.

Since the land transfers were completed, Staff has identified several desired technical corrections including property the City wishes to acquire, property where the City requests the reversionary interests be removed, and property the City suggests should be disposed of for economic development. Additionally, the City proposes several text corrections for clarification.

On October 22, 2018, a joint Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting was held to provide input to the Board of Supervisors on this proposal. After lengthy discussion, the Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission approved a recommendation for the technical map corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill with the exception of Federal Lands Bill Map Reference Number 4 for which no action was taken due to pending questions regarding use of this property for flood mitigation, cost-benefit information for retaining versus returning to BLM, confirmation of zoning prior to the City acquiring from BLM, and the City's obligation under Section 106 for historic and cultural resources.

Several comments were made by the public that the process for the technical map corrections was moving too quickly and there should be more opportunity for public comment. Staff explained that the joint meeting as well as the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting would provide the opportunity for public input.

Below is a summary of the additional comments received by the public for Federal Lands Bill Map Reference Numbers 1 through 3 and 5 through 8. Due to public comments received and additional research to be completed by Staff, Federal Lands Bill Map Reference Number 4 (Bennett Properties) will be heard separately under its own agenda item.

Map Reference Number 1: Request that once acquired, this parcel be made part of the Silver Saddle and East Silver Saddle Ranch.

Map Reference Number 2: Carson City Airport Authority expressed support. Public statement that there is negligible use of APN 008-128-02 and no OHV use or dumping occurring on this parcel. Question regarding other potential future economic development uses for this site that would be allowed with removal of the reversionary interest.

Map Reference Number 3: No Comments

Map Reference Number 5: Concerns whether dispersed recreation and access to trails would still be allowed on parcel. Concerns over who will maintain the property and how OHV use will be regulated.

Map Reference Number 6: Concerns whether dispersed recreation and access to trails would still be allowed on parcels. Concerns regarding retaining fire access road. Concerns over who will maintain the property and how OHV use will be regulated.

Map Reference Number 7: Carson City School District expressed support. Public question as to why Montessori was not interested in this parcel for a school site. Comment recommending this parcel being utilized for dispersed recreation if not needed for school.

Map Reference Number 8: No comments

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (OPLMA)

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Do not adopt a resolution expressing support of the proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill as it is currently being developed for congressional approval.

Propose modified motion.

Board Action Taken:

Motion: App

- 1) LB
- 2) KA

Aye/Nay

5/0

SM

(Vote Recorded By)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-R-36

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE CARSON CITY LANDS BILL

WHEREAS, the Carson City Board of Supervisors has included Quality of Life and Economic Development as two of its strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, the Carson City Board of Supervisors, managers and staff have worked with the Nevada Congressional Delegation and the Bureau of Land Management to maximize economic use of federally-owned real property and to enhance and protect property for open space, recreation and other public purposes; and

WHEREAS, through the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, the Carson City Board of Supervisors identified federally managed lands whose ownership should be transferred to Carson City; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 provided for the disposition of more than 8,000 acres of federal lands within Carson City, including the sale of approximately 150 acres of federal land; and

WHEREAS, since the transfer of said properties, the Carson City Board of Supervisors identified technical corrections it would like make to the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Carson City Board of Supervisors is in support of the proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill as it is being currently developed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carson City Board of Supervisors supports the proposed technical corrections to the Carson City Lands Bill as it is currently being developed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and hereby ordered that this resolution be recorded in the office of the Carson City Recorder.

Upon motion by Supervisor Lori Bagwell, seconded by Supervisor Karen Abowd, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 15th day of November, 2018, by the following vote.

AYES: Supervisor Lori Bagwell
Supervisor Karen Abowd
Supervisor Brad Bonkowski
Supervisor John Barrette
Mayor Robert Crowell


NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None.



ROBERT L. CROWELL, Mayor

ATTEST:


SUSAN MERRIWETHER, Clerk – Recorder

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
Chair
House Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Westerman and Tiffany,

The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center II (TRI II) organization is writing today in support of the Fernley Economic Development Act as written in Title X of H.R. 3173 Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023 sponsored by Congressman Mark Amodei. Thank you for your leadership and continued support of responsible and sustainable economic development in Nevada. We appreciate your hard work to advance public lands legislation.

The TRI organizations have had many successes here in Northern Nevada. The organizations took 107,000 of raw desert and turned it into the most sought after industrial and tech destination in the United States. With approximately 150 Wall Street tech and industrial companies (including Tesla, Panasonic, Microsoft, Google and many others) and 35,000 jobs, going to 45,000 within 60 months, TRIC is a large part of diversifying the Nevada economy.

But the Nevada economy is still being strangled. There is no more land available for new workforce housing at affordable levels nor tech/industrial development. A standard 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Reno has an average price of \$600,000. You have to make \$150,000 a year to afford that mortgage. With no land available to bring more top of the line tech and tech manufacturing companies, the State's economy will still have a sizable reliance on a singular industry which is particularly volatile and sensitive to recessions.

The TRI organization has a strong environmental record including a long-standing partnership with American Wild Horse Campaign. In addition, the organization repopulated the region with Bighorn Sheep after they had been considered extinct in this part of the state. Additionally, TRI just built a \$100 million reclaimed water system which preserves our precious groundwater for truly potable purposes. Passing H.R. 3173 will allow the City of Fernley to responsibly develop the industrial and commercial sectors (in partnership with the private sector) without impacting precious environmental landscapes, while also providing adequate workforce housing.

The City of Fernley in partnership with key stakeholders like TRI II is looking to expand on the success of the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center (TRI) and open more availability for development and housing in their jurisdiction beyond the bounds of the current TRIC footprint which is completely sold out of land.

Based on the success of TRI and interest already being expressed by businesses across the country, the expansion of industrial and residential development made possible by Title IX of H.R. 3173 would support:

- Between 10 – 15,000 jobs
- Include capital investments of between \$5 and \$10 billion

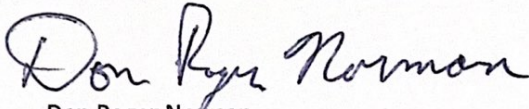
- Between \$250 and \$300 million in annual payroll
- Creation of payroll multiplier between 1.5x and 2.5x

Currently, the land available to continue the progress of TRIC is in checkerboard pattern where half the land is privately held, and the other half remains in the ownership of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Fernley Economic Development Act would make this transfer which does not expand beyond the bounds of the Fernley city limits and enjoys the support of the entire region, including public votes of endorsement from both the City of Fernley and Lyon County.

As you continue to lead Congress in lands legislation, we ask that you and your team support the Fernley Economic Development Act and H.R. 3173 and include it in any moving lands bill toward final passage in Congress.

Again, we thank you for your hard work and significant leadership on these important issues to our state and we look forward to collaborating with you on this and all the economic development legislation you are championing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Roger Norman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Don Roger Norman
President
TRI II

PERSHING COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



P. O. DRAWER E
LOVELOCK, NV 89419
775-273-2342 * Fax 775-273-5078

Testimony of

Pershing County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada

House Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Subcommittee Hearing

HR 3173, the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023

March 7, 2024

Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse, on behalf of Pershing County, Nevada, please accept for the official record the testimony of R. Bryce Shields, Pershing County District Attorney, in support of HR 3173, the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023. We express our sincere appreciation to Congressman Mark Amodei for his unflagging efforts, support, and dedication to this important legislation. While Pershing County endorses HR 3173 in its entirety, we submit this testimony specifically in support of Title VI of the bill, the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation provisions.

For the last twenty (20) years, the Pershing County Board of Commissioners (the "BOC"), together with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, has sought the resolution of Pershing County's long-standing public lands issues and concomitant economic woes, a veritable Gordian knot. HR 3173 represents a culmination of those united efforts, standing as a testament to the power of grassroots organization and collaborative bipartisan decision making. We believe that Title VI cuts this Gordian knot, accomplishing three equally important objectives: 1) Providing a rational, planned resolution to problems associated with checkerboard ownership patterns; 2) Promoting favorable conditions for economic development and efficient resource management; and 3) Protecting Pershing County lands that are truly wild, along with the County's rural heritage.

Rationalizing the Checkboard, Promoting Economic Development, and Efficient Resource Management

Nevada's checkerboard ownership pattern, which is strewn across a 40-mile-wide swath of land on each side of Interstate 80 in Pershing County, strains proper BLM management of public lands and restricts public access to checkerboard lands due to the mixture of privately owned parcels. The lack of access to lands within the checkerboard operates as an economic barrier to the County's ability to attract and guide development into sustainable patterns, which in turn restricts

the County's tax base. Compounding the problem, the Federal Government owns 75.6% of the land within Pershing County leaving only 24.4% available for ad valorem taxation. Thus, of the small percentage of land subject to ad valorem taxation in Pershing County, an even smaller percentage is suitable for development sufficient to yield tax proceeds of significant value.

Title VI or HR 3173 provides a solution to land management and development challenges by directing the sale or exchange of public lands within the checkerboard at fair market value. The proceeds of these transactions will be distributed as follows:

- 1) 85% to Nevada's BLM to be used for "willing seller" land purchases in Pershing County for conservation, wildlife habitat, recreation, and preservation of other cultural and ecological resources;
- 2) 10% to the Pershing County budget;
- 3) 5% to the state of Nevada general education fund per current law.

The proceeds of sales should afford the BLM the opportunity to block up federal land holdings in sensitive areas more appropriate for conservation, recreation, and species habitat and control. In turn, the consolidation of federal property under BLM management, along with increased funding from the proceeds of sales, will likely enable the BLM to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance on public lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Additionally, the sale or exchange of checkerboard lands will likely encourage development in communities along the Interstate 80 corridor within Pershing County by creating, for the first time, the prospect of contiguous parcels of private property within the checkerboard in areas suitable for development, i.e., areas in proximity to the power grid, rail transport, and Interstate 80. Several businesses including Coeur Mining, New Nevada Lands, renewable energy developers, and a data center project have expressed interest in acquiring and consolidating blocks of private ownership within the checkerboard. Such development is crucial to expanding the County's tax base and bringing jobs to our economically stressed region.

Protecting Pershing County's Wildlands and Rural Heritage

Title VI designates approximately 136,072 acres of BLM wilderness within the following areas of Pershing County: Cain Mountain (formerly Augusta Mountain), Bluewing, Fencemaker, Grandfather's (China Mountain and the Tobin Range), Mount Limbo, and North Sahwave. In exchange, the bill releases roughly 48,600 acres of Wilderness Study Areas throughout the County.

As stewards of Pershing County's unique landscape, we support and recommend the designation of these areas as wilderness. Each of the seven areas under consideration represents some of the most beautiful lands in Pershing County, offering excellent wildlife habitat, spectacular scenery, and solitude. Many of these areas sustain the legacy of rural Northern Nevada, as the Bluewing, Fencemaker, Grandfather, and Mount Limbo support watersheds vital to important ranches that


have thrived in Pershing County for over 100 years. These lands are worthy of preservation for future generations.

We invite the Subcommittee to consider that each proposed area was handpicked through a collaborative process consisting of diverse stakeholders including the BOC, corporate citizens, conservationists, exploration geologists, landowners, miners, ranchers, recreationists, sportsmen, and more. These designations enjoy the unanimous support of both the BOC and others who live, work, and recreate in Pershing County. We urge Congress to respect the wishes of those who know the land and designate the proposed areas as wilderness.

As validation of our recommendation, it is worth noting that Congress designated the portions of Cain Mountain that fall within Churchill and Lander Counties as wilderness under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023. On that basis, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the portion of Cain Mountain lying within Pershing County should likewise be designated as wilderness under Title VI of HR 3173. Moreover, because the remaining six areas under consideration in Pershing County share the same characteristics as Cain Mountain, they too should be designated as wilderness.

In closing, Pershing County appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HR 3173 and the Pershing provisions. We view this legislation as vital to the economic prosperity of Pershing County and the preservation of our lands for future generations. We urge the Subcommittee to pass this important bill this year. Please contact Bryce Shields at (775) 273-2613 or bshields@pershingcountynv.gov if you have any questions regarding our views on HR 3173.

Thank you,



R. Bryce Shields
Pershing County District Attorney

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California



919 U.S. 395 SOUTH, GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410
TEL. (775) 265-8600, FAX (775) 265-6240

May 7, 2019

Kevin Wilmot, Acting District Ranger
Carson Ranger District
US Forest Service, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Subject: Douglas County Lands Bill

Dear Mr. Wilmot,

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Tribe) is pleased to accept the 724 acres from the U.S. Forest Service located south of Gardnerville, Nevada (see attached map). The 724 acres of land is also known as *It-goom-mum teh-weh-weh ush-shah-ish* (Dance Hill) a Traditional Cultural Property important to the Tribe's cultural and spiritual identity and history. In addition the land will connect to the Washoe Tribe's Dresslerville Community immediately north of the donated land providing a seamless access for the Tribe.

We acknowledge that Douglas County will be receiving the 1084 acre parcel adjacent to and west of the Tribe's 724 acres. We will be happy to work your office and Douglas County in defining the legal descriptions of these parcels in the final documents.

Thank you and please call me if you have any questions at (775) 265-8600

Respectfully,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serrel Smokey".


SERREL SMOKEY
Chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada
and California



To Washoe
Tribe
724 Acres

To Douglas Co
1,084 Acres

 Forest System Land to Transfer

 National Forest System Land

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

