

Nevada Association of Counties Resolution
#08-06

**RESOLUTION REGARDING COUNTY APPROVAL OF
PUBLIC LANDS BILLS**

WHEREAS, Nevada has the highest percentage of federal land ownership in any state, and in some Nevada counties, federal land ownership exceeds ninety-five percent of the land mass, and

WHEREAS, the economies of Nevada's rural counties rely on the use of federal lands for mining, livestock grazing, and recreation, and

WHEREAS, Nevada's counties are exploring ways to diversify their economies including developing renewable energy resources and expanding military operations on public lands, and

WHEREAS, for residents of all Nevada counties and visitors alike public lands provide a myriad of opportunities for recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, camping, fishing, and off-highway vehicle travel, and

WHEREAS, public lands bills have freed up much needed land for development, parks, utilities and other government facilities, and have generated new revenues for education, preservation of environmentally sensitive lands and other public improvements, and

WHEREAS, proposed wilderness designations in public lands bills currently being considered have raised an extraordinary level of concern over the continued access to and use of public lands for economic development, fire suppression and recreation, and

WHEREAS, any public lands bills must recognize that each county has unique assets, and its citizens their own interests, and

WHEREAS, a successful public lands bill requires a significant amount of time and resources to develop long-range land use plans and to analyze impacts which may not be immediately available to some county governments, and

WHEREAS, the passage of a successful public lands bill also requires ample opportunity for local input and an ongoing and collaborative effort amongst all stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, county governments, being closest to the people, have the best understanding of the needs and interests of their residents and that the use of public lands is one of their top concerns, and

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WHEREAS, county governments may not want to have a public lands bill if it includes wilderness areas, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NACO appreciates the hard work and support of Nevada's Congressional Delegation in passing bills to convey public lands and make funds available for future development in certain Nevada counties, and


THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any public lands bills in Nevada not enacted as of the date of this resolution not be enacted without a resolution of support by the affected Board(s) of County Commissioners, and

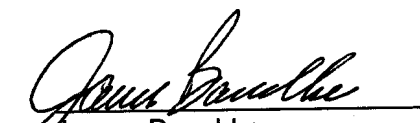
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all future lands bills in Nevada should be initiated by resolution of the board(s) of County commissioners and that introduction of a public lands bill before Congress must occur only after a resolution of support by the Board(s) of County Commissioners, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Nevada's Congressional delegation, the Governor of Nevada, the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate, the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly, the Minority Leaders of the Nevada Senate and Assembly, and the Chairman of the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 30th day of May, 2008 by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties.

Attest:


Jeffrey Fontaine
Executive Director


James Baushe
President

