
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13—ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK

MARCH 23, 2017

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Expresses the support of the Nevada Legislature for the enactment and use of the Antiquities Act and the designation of the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte Monument in this State. (BDR R-1061)

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.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the enactment and use of the Antiquities Act and the designation of the Basin and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument in this State.

- 1 WHEREAS, The provisions of 54 U.S.C. § 320301, commonly
2 referred to as the “Antiquities Act,” authorize the President of the
3 United States to designate as national monuments any historic
4 landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of
5 historic or scientific interest that are located on land owned or
6 controlled by the Federal Government; and
7 WHEREAS, The Gold Butte National Monument was designated
8 as a national monument under the Antiquities Act to protect and
9 preserve approximately 300,000 acres of public lands in Clark
10 County, Nevada; and
11 WHEREAS, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Gila Monsters, Desert
12 Tortoises and other species of concern live in the Gold Butte
13 National Monument; and



1 WHEREAS, As a way to honor their ancestral lands, the Moapa
2 Band of Paiute Indians and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe have
3 supported the designation of the Gold Butte National Monument
4 because it is rich with cultural artifacts and sublime petroglyphs;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument was
7 designated as a national monument under the Antiquities Act to
8 protect and preserve approximately 700,000 acres of public land in
9 Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada; and

10 WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument provides
11 vital habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep, Gila Monsters, Rocky
12 Mountain Elk, mule deer, various kinds of sagebrush and many
13 other species of concern; and

14 WHEREAS, The Basin and Range National Monument protects
15 many cultural artifacts which date from the early human inhabitants
16 of the area encompassed by the Basin and Range National
17 Monument to the creation of one of the world's greatest works of
18 art, entitled "City," by world renowned artist Michael Heizer; and

19 WHEREAS, Hunting, hiking and hundreds of miles of motorized
20 access are allowed in both the Basin and Range National Monument
21 and the Gold Butte National Monument; and

22 WHEREAS, The residents of this State have long benefitted from
23 the designation of the Lehman Caves National Monument by former
24 President of the United States Warren G. Harding and the
25 subsequent inclusion of the Lehman Caves National Monument in
26 the Great Basin National Park; and

27 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation activities generate approximately
28 \$15 billion dollars in direct consumer spending each year in the
29 State of Nevada and approximately \$1 billion dollars in state and
30 local tax revenue; and

31 WHEREAS, The designation of the Basin and Range National
32 Monument and the Gold Butte Monument will increase tourism and
33 protect important wildlife habitat and cultural resources in this State;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Former President of the United States Theodore
36 Roosevelt first used the Antiquities Act in 1906 and 16 former
37 presidents in the last 111 years, of whom 8 were Republicans and 8
38 were Democrats, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the
39 natural, cultural and historic heritage of the United States; and

40 WHEREAS, The designation of national monuments is a uniquely
41 American idea and the Antiquities Act was enacted to preserve
42 worthy public lands as national monuments for future generations;
43 and



1 WHEREAS, Many unique sites, including, without limitation, the
2 Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty and sites that celebrate and
3 memorialize American history from slavery to civil rights battles,
4 have been protected under the Antiquities Act; and

5 WHEREAS, The designation of national monuments provides
6 additional protections for public lands which are held in trust for all
7 Americans, including public lands which are available for traditional
8 uses such as hunting, fishing, grazing, tribal wood and herbal
9 gathering and other historical uses; and

10 WHEREAS, The beneficial use of renewable land, water and
11 wildlife resources is essential to the long-term economy of this
12 State; and

13 WHEREAS, The management of national monuments is guided
14 by plans developed with input from state, local and tribal
15 governments, members of the public and other stakeholders; and

16 WHEREAS, Landscapes which are protected and remain intact
17 are important to cultural and traditional activities for all residents of
18 this State; and

19 WHEREAS, National monuments which recognize and protect
20 the contributions, histories, cultures and spiritual beliefs of tribal
21 communities and communities of color are some of the most
22 precious public lands of the United States and are deserving of
23 protection and are important in telling a more complete and
24 inclusive history of the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, Recent polls indicate that approximately 81 percent
26 of the residents of this State support keeping in place existing
27 national monuments such as the Basin and Range National
28 Monument and the Gold Butte National Monument; now, therefore,
29 be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
31 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the
32 Nevada Legislature affirm and support the designation of the Basin
33 and Range National Monument and the Gold Butte National
34 Monument under the Antiquities Act; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature supports the enactment
36 and use of the Antiquities Act as a critical tool for protecting the
37 public good by authorizing the designation of national monuments
38 under the Antiquities Act; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges Congress to
40 oppose any efforts to weaken the Antiquities Act or to reverse the
41 designation of any national monument under the Antiquities Act;
42 and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
44 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
45 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding



- 1 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
- 2 House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada
- 3 Congressional Delegation.

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