

Senate JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0001

State-federal school trust lands exchange.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the Congress of the United
2 States to enact legislation requiring the exchange of certain
3 landlocked state trust lands in Wyoming.

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5 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, through the
6 Wyoming Act of Admission, granted lands to the State of
7 Wyoming to support the development of a public school system
8 and other designated institutions in this state; and

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10 WHEREAS, approximately one hundred one thousand (101,000)
11 acres of state trust lands have become landlocked within
12 specially designated lands and other parcels under the
13 jurisdiction of the Federal Government in Wyoming, limiting
14 the ability of the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners to
15 generate revenues for the support and benefit of public

1 schools and other designated institutions in this state,
2 including through mineral and agricultural development and
3 public recreation; and

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5 WHEREAS, these landlocked state trust lands are not
6 maximizing the potential revenues for which they were
7 originally transferred to the State of Wyoming; and

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9 WHEREAS, exchange of these landlocked state trust lands for
10 other lands under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government
11 could allow the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners to
12 generate significant revenues to fund public schools and
13 other designated institutions in the State of Wyoming; and

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15 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
16 currently has the legal authority to conduct land exchanges
17 with states under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
18 of 1976, Public Law 94-579, as amended, but this process has
19 proven to be cumbersome and inefficient in other attempted
20 land exchanges; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners currently
2 has the legal authority under Wyo. Stat. 36-1-101 et seq. to
3 conduct land exchanges under specified conditions; and

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5 WHEREAS, Congress has previously enacted legislation to
6 require specific state land exchanges and establish
7 procedures, standards and funding for these exchanges,
8 including the Utah Recreational Land Exchange Act of 2009,
9 Public Law 111-53, the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000,
10 Public Law 106-257, and the Utah Schools and Lands Exchange
11 Act of 1998, Public Law 105-335.

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13 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
14 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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16 **Section 1.**

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18 (a) That the Congress of the United States is urged to
19 enact legislation during the 116th Congress requiring an
20 exchange of landlocked state trust lands identified by the
21 State of Wyoming with lands currently under the jurisdiction
22 of the Federal Government in this state; and

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1 (b) That if land exchange legislation is enacted by
2 Congress, the legislation should include the following
3 components:

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5 (i) Direction to the United States Department of
6 the Interior, Department of Agriculture and other relevant
7 Federal agencies to begin negotiating an agreement with the
8 State of Wyoming by a date certain;

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10 (ii) A date certain by which the exchange shall be
11 completed;

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13 (iii) A requirement that public meetings be held
14 throughout Wyoming relating to the proposed exchange;

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16 (iv) A requirement that the proposed exchange
17 lands be of equal value, as reasonably possible;

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19 (v) A requirement that an appraisal of the
20 proposed exchange lands be conducted under Federal appraisal
21 standards and be accompanied by a flexible process to adjust
22 proposed exchange lands based on appraisal results;

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1 (vi) A requirement that the exchange be conducted
2 in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act,
3 Public Law 91-190, as amended, and applicable Wyoming law;
4 and

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6 (vii) Appropriate spending authority, if
7 necessary, to cover the costs incurred by the Federal
8 Government during the exchange process.

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10 **Section 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit copies
11 of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
12 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
13 United States House of Representatives, the Wyoming
14 Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States
15 Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of the United
16 States Department of the Interior.

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(END)