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| **For Immediate Release:** |  **Contact:** Neal A. Patel |
| June 8, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Applauds Hardy’s Effort to Lead House Passage of Key Lands Legislation** *Bicameral, Bipartisan Legislation Jumpstarts Economic Development and Allows for Conservation Efforts in Eastern Nevada***(Washington, DC)** - Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) applauded the effort of Congressman Cresent Hardy (R-NV) to lead the passage of key legislation, *the Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act*, through the United States House of Representatives by a vote of 360-7. Senator Heller introduced the companion legislation, S. 953, in the Senate. The legislation eases restrictions on Eastern Nevada Land. Following House passage, Heller issued this statement:“I am proud to see our legislation take an important step towards fruition by passing the House. It is significant for the State of Nevada, allowing Lincoln County, White Pine County, and the City of Mesquite the flexibility they need to provide long-term economic growth opportunities, and at the same time, reinforces conservation efforts in the area,” **said Senator Heller**. “I commend Congressman Hardy for his tireless efforts and leadership in guiding this bill through the House. As the lead in the Senate, I will work to successfully advance this priority over its last hurdle so it can be sent to the President’s desk to be signed into law.”**Background:**The Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act *(H.R.1815/S.953)* is cosponsored by U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), along with U.S. Representatives Joe Heck (NV-03), Mark Amodei (NV-02), and Dina Titus (NV-01). The [Lincoln County Board of Commissioners](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/72542a49-e123-4b3e-bad2-c816b4e6932c/Lincoln%20County%20Letter%204%2015%2015.pdf), the [White Pine County Board of Commissioners](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e98dde45-688a-4966-8d34-550105d1dd48/White%20Pine%20County%20Letter%20of%20Support%20March%2016%2C%202015.pdf), and the [Mesquite City Council](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b0e6a5ac-e254-476e-9ca1-61770e7e6e4c/City%20of%20Mesquite%20Letter%20of%20Support.pdf) have endorsed their portions of this legislation.**Lincoln County*** Section 2 amends the county’s two public lands acts (P.L. 106-298 and P.L. 108-424) to more effectively carry out their long-term conservation and land use goals.
* This technical correction will help prevent catastrophic wildfire, facilitate infrastructure development, improve sage grouse habitat, and expedite the development of solar energy zones.
* It also codifies a land reconfiguration stipulated in the Coyote Springs Valley intended to protect desert tortoise habitat while facilitating economic development.

**White Pine and Nye Counties** * Section 3 fixes errors in wilderness areas established by Congress located in White Pine and Nye Counties. Specifically it:
	+ Releases from the Arc Dome Wilderness Area land containing a small dam that is owned and maintained by the Yamba Tribe.
	+ Releases from the High Schells Wilderness area land where a frequently used Girl Scout camp is located and adjusts the designation of a road near McCoy Creek.
	+ Releases from the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area a section that will allow access to the main road and facilities at the Big Canyon Trailhead.

**City of Mesquite*** Section 4 amends the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 (P.L.99–548) to provide the City with greater opportunity for long-term economic development.

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