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**Heller Resolution in Support of** **Nevada Tourism Passes Senate**

**Washington, D.C.** – The U.S. Senate passed a resolution introduced by U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Roy Blunt (R-MO) that highlights National Travel and Tourism Week. With at least 50 million visitors to Nevada annually, Heller remains committed to the state’s tourism economy and has a strong and consistent record of supporting solutions to bolster travel to and through the Silver State.

“Tourism is the backbone of Nevada’s economy,” **said Heller**. “The industry employs hundreds of thousands of people and accounts for billions to our state’s economy. That’s why I’ll continue to fight for solutions – ranging from building our roads and ensuring safe air travel – that pave the way for Nevada to thrive.”

As part of his efforts to encourage safe and efficient travel to Nevada, [Heller urged the Trump Administration to prioritize Interstate 11 (I-11) funding in any upcoming infrastructure package.](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=FC4F8D0E-3B44-4E6A-82E1-6198DEC17667) In 2015, Heller [introduced legislation to extend I-11 from Las Vegas to Northern Nevada.](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=f0b7befb-61f2-44d1-ab0d-be49ae502e2a) He secured [this extension and designation of I-11 as a high-priority corridor](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=D94FBB96-DF60-4ED3-9AB7-6E6EFC351F0E) of the National Highway System in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. This highway’s eventual completion will provide another avenue for safe and efficient travel across Nevada.

Recently, Heller [questioned United Airlines](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=94FF144C-F1A4-45A6-8DF1-7685EBFB5265) about what he sees as a decrease in quality and increase in price for their customers. He demanded answers on their efforts to provide Nevada passengers a safe, comfortable experience. In fact, shortly after the United Airlines controversy occurred last month, [Heller called on the Senate Commerce Committee to hold a hearing](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/8d423fd9-2179-4416-af69-59108227b94d/04122017%20Heller%20Letter%20to%20Commerce.pdf). Heller’s concerns stem from the fact that air travel is essential to Nevada’s tourism economy, and the McCarran and Reno-Tahoe international airports alone serve over 50 million passengers each year.

With over 200 weekly nonstop flights through Las Vegas alone, [Heller also urged the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/3/heller-urges-dhs-to-strengthen-travel-security-to-protect-nevada-tourism) to provide the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with the resources it needs to support Nevada’s airports like McCarran and Reno-Tahoe.

Heller recently joined as Co-Chair of the Senate’s Travel and Tourism Caucus, which works to promote common-sense policies and raise awareness of the importance of the job-creating travel and tourism industry.

**Below is the full text of the resolution:**

*Supporting the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States.*

*Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week was established in 1983 through the enactment of the Joint Resolution entitled `Joint Resolution to designate the week beginning May 27, 1984, as `National Tourism Week', approved November 29, 1983 (Public Law 98-178; 97 Stat. 1126), which recognized the value of travel and tourism;*

*Whereas National Travel and Tourism Week is celebrated across the United States from May 7 through May 13, 2017;*

*Whereas more than 400 celebrations throughout the United States are scheduled in honor of National Travel and Tourism Week;*

*Whereas 1 out of every 9 jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism and the travel and tourism industry supports 15,300,000 jobs in the United States;*

*Whereas the travel and tourism industry employs individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all the territories of the United States;*

*Whereas international travel to the United States--*

*(1) is the single largest export industry in the United States; and*

*(2) generates a trade surplus balance of approximately $87,000,000,000;*

*Whereas the travel and tourism industry, Congress, and the President have worked to streamline the visa process and make the United States welcoming to visitors from other countries;*

*Whereas travel and tourism provide significant economic benefits to the United States by generating nearly $2,300,000,000,000 in annual economic output;*

*Whereas leisure travel allows individuals to experience the rich cultural heritage and educational opportunities of the United States and its communities; and*

*Whereas the immense value of travel and tourism cannot be overstated: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved, That the Senate--*

*(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Travel and Tourism Week;*

*(2) commends the travel and tourism industry for its important contributions to the United States; and*

*(3) commends the employees of the travel and tourism industry for their important contributions to the United States.*

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