**Reid, Heller, McCain, Flake Introduce Amendment to Commerce Bill to Encourage Progress on I-11**

**Washington, D.C.** – Nevada Senators Harry Reid and Dean Heller along with Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake introduced an amendment to the 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that highlights the economic contributions of Interstate 11, which will connect Phoenix to Las Vegas. Phoenix and Las Vegas are the two largest neighboring cities in the country without a connecting interstate.  The amendment will help set the stage for debate in the Senate for the potential to appropriate funds for construction of I-11 in the 2015 Surface Transportation Appropriations Bill.

“It is extremely important that Interstate-11 continues to advance so that it receives the necessary federal funding,” **said Senator Reid**. “This vital infrastructure project is long overdue, and will certainly help restore economic activity to southern Nevada that has been so badly hit by the recession. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Nevada and Arizona to ensure this important economic project comes to fruition.”

“Not only will I-11 improve safety and travel times in the north-south corridors of the western United States, it will enhance economic activity between Arizona and Nevada. As an artery of commerce, the I-11 corridor and any designation through Nevada will lead to an expansion of trade activity across the southwest. Job creation and the enhancement of America’s global competitiveness will be direct byproducts of I-11’s presence, all of which add value for small businesses and hardworking families in communities across Nevada. As a staunch supporter of I-11, I commend my colleagues for recognizing the inherent value of this project,” said **Senator Dean Heller**.

MCCAIN

“I’m pleased to join my colleagues in cosponsoring this amendment to convey the importance of the I-11 designation,” **said Senator Flake.**  “The highway’s potential to serve as a boon to U.S. trade and economic growth should be recognized.”