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**Key Senate Panel Passes Heller’s Pershing County Lands Bill**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) today applauded the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee’s approval of his Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act, legislation that he introduced to facilitate new opportunities for economic development throughout the county while promoting conservation efforts. This legislation is the result of an inclusive, grassroots-driven, public process, including meetings, discussions, and visits with and between Pershing County officials, local residents and other important stakeholders.

The Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act is supported by Pershing County Commission, the City of Lovelock, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Chamber of Reno and Sparks, the Nevada Mining Association, Nevada Farm Bureau, Coalition for Nevada’s Wildlife, and the Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

“This proposal is truly driven by the community and will address public lands issues that have negatively impacted Pershing County for decades. By bringing a commonsense approach to land development, this legislation will help move Pershing County away from a complicated checkerboard pattern that placed limits on economic innovation,” **said Heller.** “This legislation protects Nevada’s landscape, preserves Nevada’s way of life by defending the freedom of our outdoorsmen, and creates good-paying jobs for years to come. I thank Chairwoman Murkowski for her leadership to help advance this legislation, and I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to send this legislation to the President’s desk.”

Congressman Mark Amodei (NV-02) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and it [passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/1/heller-statement-on-u-s-house-passage-of-pershing-county-lands-bill).

**Background:**

On February 1st, 2017, the Pershing County Commission passed a [resolution](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/39a3ac69-593b-4cbc-a940-a317013b56b0/02012017%20Pershing%20County%20Resolution.pdf) urging the Nevada Congressional Delegation to re-introduce and advance the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act.

The legislation is comprised of three key components:

* An innovative solution to resolve the complicated land management issue of checkerboard lands, including the disposal and exchange of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the county for economic development and public purposes.
* The conservation of certain areas already managed by the BLM land in the county.
* The release of the selected wilderness study areas, currently managed as by the BLM as wilderness, back into multiple-use.

More details on the bill, including maps, can be found [here](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=pershing-county-lands-bill).

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