

**For Immediate Release:** Contact: Chandler Smith

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**Heller Introduces Public Lands Bills to Reduce Red-Tape, Protect Access to NV Land**

**(Washington, D.C.) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced the Public Lands Job Creation Act and the Nevada Monument Act. Both pieces of legislation will help protect access to land and resources in Nevada, where 87 percent of the land is federally-owned.

Heller’s Public Lands Job Creation Act streamlines the permitting process for mineral and renewable energy development, while also preserving the time necessary for environmental analysis. Heller’s second bill, the Nevada Monument Act, prevents the federal government from establishing additional national monuments in the state of Nevada without congressional approval.

Regarding the Public Lands Jobs Creation Act, Heller said, “Due to the lack of economic activity in Nevada, people have stopped looking for work or worse, have actually left the state for employment elsewhere. The Silver State has a vast amount of federal land rich in natural resources and a major part of generating jobs is to ensure we have access to those resources in our own backyard. The Public Lands Job Creation Act streamlines the permitting process for responsible mineral and renewable energy development on public lands and is an easy solution that will help unleash jobs and make a real difference for Nevadans.”

“Any action that could limit access to public land in the Silver State should be done in a public, transparent way so that Nevadans can provide input. By requiring congressional approval, this bill will provide residents and local officials the opportunity to offer their opinion as well as to evaluate the impact that a national monument designation would have on the local economy. Every effort should be made to ensure that there is no rush to permanently lock up public land,” Senator Heller said about the Nevada Monument Act.

**Background**

The Public Lands Job Creation Act gives the Department of the Interior (DOI) a period of forty-five days to complete the review process of notices sent from state Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices before they appear in the federal register.

The Nevada Monument Act, limiting federal authority over Nevada land, amends the Antiquities Act to prohibit further extension or establishment of national monuments in the Silver State except by express authorization of Congress.

PDF copies of both bills are attached with this release.

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