

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

September 9, 2013 202-224-6244

**Heller Welcomes Senate Passage of Mesquite Land Law**

*Provides region with flexibility for economic growth and long-term planning*

**(Washington, D.C.)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) applauded passage of S. XXX, a bill that amends current law to provide the City Mesquite with greater flexibility for economic development. The bill also strengthens conservation efforts in Mesquite.

“Too often, the grip of the federal government on 87 percent of Nevada’s land stands in the way of economic growth and development. I’m very pleased that this legislation, which helps ease the government control in this region, has passed the Senate. We are now one stop closer to providing the City of Mesquite with the flexibility it needs for responsible long-term growth. I would also like to thank Representative Horsford for leading the charge in the House of Representatives. His advocacy is important as we continue to push this legislation, and hopefully send it to the President for signature in the near future,” said Senator Heller.

Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV-4) has introduced counterpart legislation in the House of Representatives.

S. XXX amends current law, which required the City of Mesquite was required to notify BLM by November 13, 2009, if it wanted to purchase the last parcel of land made available by the Mesquite Lands Act and to close the purchase of the deal within one year. This bill extends the timeline for Mesquite to purchase this land.

This legislation also corrects an omission in the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 for the implementation of the Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Plan (VRHCRP) and the Hydrologic Monitoring & Mitigation Plan (HMMP).

###