

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 21, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski,

I am writing today to ask for quick consideration and markup of S. 159, the Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act. As you may know, there is a bipartisan House companion to this legislation, and last Congress, a version of this bill passed out of the House of Representatives, as part of H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act.

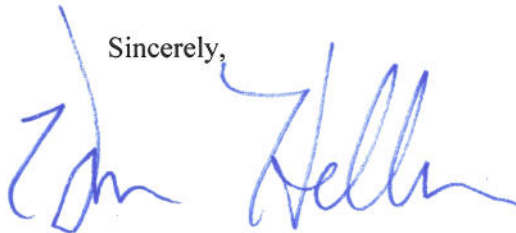
Nevada, with 87% of our land base controlled by the federal government, has the lowest percentage of private land of any state. Until recently, we led the nation in unemployment. Our high unemployment coupled with limited ability to expand and grow puts Nevada at a disadvantage to every other state in the country. To help mitigate this, Sen. Reid and I authored S. 159 to provide economic opportunity to one of the most economically depressed counties in Nevada.

S. 159 will allow the City of Yerington to partner with Nevada Copper to develop roughly 12,500 acres of land surrounding the Nevada Copper Pumpkin Hollow project site. The land purchased by the city will be used for mining activities, industrial and renewable energy development, recreation, and open space. The bill also establishes the Wovoka Wilderness to protect cultural resources and important habitat for generations to come. S. 159 will pave the way for the creation of approximately 500 construction jobs in the next year and nearly 800 jobs when the property is fully utilized. Unemployed Nevadans need jobs now and Lyon County and the surrounding areas need the economic benefit this bill will bring. Swift passage of this legislation will put Nevadans back to work and increase funding for schools, law enforcement, and other municipal functions.

I respectfully request an expedited hearing and markup of S. 159. This legislation is an example of how Congress can act to encourage job growth and I look forward to working with you to see this important bill become law.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER
U.S. Senate

Cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate