



Board of County Commissioners

Lincoln County, Nevada

P.O. Box 90 – Pioche, Nevada 89043

Telephone (775) 962-8077

Fax (775) 962-5180

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Phillips, Chair
Adam Katschke, Vice Chair
Paul Mathews
Paul Donohue
Varlin Higbee

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Daniel M. Hooge

COUNTY CLERK

Lisa C. Lloyd

April 6, 2015

Senator Dean Heller
Nevada
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Continuing Support for Enactment of Amendments to the Lincoln County Land Act and the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners, I am pleased to offer Lincoln County's continuing support for congressional enactment of amendments to the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) and the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (LCCRDA). Over the past few years, the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners has adopted several resolutions encouraging the Congress to amend both LCLA and LCCRDA. The amendments sought by the County would authorize the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to exercise its discretion in utilizing a portion of the proceeds of land sales authorized by LCLA and LCCRDA in Lincoln County to undertake planning and implementation of landscape restoration projects in areas where pinyon-juniper woodlands are encroaching into habitat for the Sage Grouse, which has been identified as a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thinning of pinyon-juniper woodlands would also serve to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire; enhance watersheds and improve habitat for a variety of other wildlife, all benefits identified in BLM's Ely Resource Management Plan.

In addition, the desired amendments to LCLA and LCCRDA would facilitate planning and permitting of rights-of-way across public land for infrastructure which will be required to serve lands sold by BLM; and will enable mineral exploration within a small portion of a utility corridor established by LCCRDA and segregated from mineral entry by the Act. BLM has already approved an alternate alignment to this portion of said

Senator Dean Heller
April 6, 2015
Page 2

utility corridor but is unable to authorize mineral exploration in the original portion of the corridor as the segregation from mineral entry was the result of Congressional action.

The Lincoln County requested amendments to LCLA and LCCRDA will position the BLM to more fully implement the Ely Resource Management Plan while also serving to facilitate expansion and diversification of the County's economy. Given that 97 percent of the land area of Lincoln County is public land administered by the federal government, it is imperative that the requested amendments to LCLA and LCCRDA be enacted.

Your continued support of Lincoln County, Nevada and efforts to secure enactment of amendments to the Lincoln County Land Act and the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "P".

Kevin Phillips
Chairman