



Board of County Commissioners
Lincoln County, Nevada

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November 2, 2015

Congressman Cresent Hardy
4th District of Nevada
430 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Continuing Support for Enactment of Amendments to the Lincoln County Land Act and the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act Contained in H.R. 1815

Dear Congressman Hardy:

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) as contained in H.R. 1815. Over the past several years, the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners has adopted numerous 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 Greater 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

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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 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.

It is important to note that the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners believe that the amendments to LCLA and LCCRDA contained in H.R. 1815 effectively address most, if not all, of the few concerns voiced by BLM's Ed Roberson during a July 30, 2014 hearing on S.1640 which also sought to amend LCLA and LCCRDA. The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners is fully supportive of H.R. 1815 and would encourage enactment of the bill by the Congress.

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,

Kevin Phillips
Chairman

Cc: Chairman Rob Bishop
Ranking Member Raul Grijalva
Chairman Tom McClintock
Ranking Member Niki Tsongas