

Union Calendar No. 459

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4285

[Report No. 108-741]

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada,
for use as a heliport.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2004

Mr. GIBBONS (for himself, Mr. PORTER, and Ms. BERKLEY) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

OCTOBER 6, 2004

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark
County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUN-**
4 **TY, NEVADA.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Las Vegas Valley in the State of Ne-
2 vada is the fastest growing community in the United
3 States;

4 (2) helicopter tour operations are conflicting
5 with the needs of long-established residential com-
6 munities in the Valley; and

7 (3) the designation of a public heliport in the
8 Valley that would reduce conflicts between helicopter
9 tour operators and residential communities is in the
10 public interest.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
12 a suitable location for the establishment of a commercial
13 service heliport facility to serve the Las Vegas Valley in
14 the State of Nevada while minimizing and mitigating the
15 impact of air tours on the Sloan Canyon National Con-
16 servation Area and North McCullough Mountains Wilder-
17 ness.

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Con-
20 servation Area” means the Sloan Canyon National
21 Conservation Area established by section 604(a) of
22 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and
23 Natural Resources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2010).

24 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark
25 County, Nevada.

1 (3) HELICOPTER TOUR.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “helicopter
3 tour” means a commercial helicopter tour oper-
4 ated for profit.

5 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “helicopter
6 tour” does not include a helicopter tour that is
7 carried out to assist a Federal, State, or local
8 agency.

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”
12 means the North McCullough Mountains Wilderness
13 established by section 202(a)(13) of the Clark Coun-
14 ty Conservation of Public Land and Natural Re-
15 sources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2000).

16 (d) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
18 to the County, subject to valid existing rights, for no con-
19 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States
20 in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (e).

21 (e) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land to
22 be conveyed under subsection (d) is the parcel of approxi-
23 mately 229 acres of land depicted as tract A on the map
24 entitled “Clark County Public Heliport Facility” and
25 dated May 3, 2004.

1 (f) USE OF LAND.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel of land conveyed
3 under subsection (d)—

4 (A) shall be used by the County for the op-
5 eration of a heliport facility under the condi-
6 tions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

7 (B) shall not be disposed of by the County.

8 (2) IMPOSITION OF FEES.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any operator of a heli-
10 copter tour originating from or concluding at
11 the parcel of land described in subsection (e)
12 shall pay to the Clark County Department of
13 Aviation a \$3 conservation fee for each pas-
14 senger on the helicopter tour if any portion of
15 the helicopter tour occurs over the Conservation
16 Area.

17 (B) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any
18 amounts collected under subparagraph (A) shall
19 be deposited in a special account in the Treas-
20 ury of the United States, which shall be avail-
21 able to the Secretary, without further appro-
22 priation, for the management of cultural, wild-
23 life, and wilderness resources on public land in
24 the State of Nevada.

1 (3) FLIGHT PATH.—Except for safety reasons,
2 any helicopter tour originating or concluding at the
3 parcel of land described in subsection (e) that flies
4 over the Conservation Area shall not fly—

5 (A) over any area in the Conservation Area
6 except the area that is between 3 and 5 miles
7 north of the latitude of the southernmost
8 boundary of the Conservation Area;

9 (B) lower than 1,000 feet over the eastern
10 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
11 Area; or

12 (C) lower than 500 feet over the western
13 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
14 Area.

15 (4) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use
16 any of the land described in subsection (d) for the
17 purpose described in paragraph (1)(A) and under
18 the conditions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3)—

19 (A) title to the parcel shall revert to the
20 United States, at the option of the United
21 States; and

22 (B) the County shall be responsible for any
23 reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to
24 the United States.

1 (g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall
2 require, as a condition of the conveyance under subsection
3 (d), that the County pay the administrative costs of the
4 conveyance, including survey costs and any other costs as-
5 sociated with the transfer of title.

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