

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3595

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nevada System of Higher Education certain Federal land located in Clark and Nye counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nevada System of Higher Education certain Federal land located in Clark and Nye counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Southern Nevada
5 Higher Education Land Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) southern Nevada is 1 of the fastest growing
2 regions in the United States, with 750,000 new resi-
3 dents added since 2000 and 250,000 residents ex-
4 pected to be added by 2010;

5 (2) the Nevada System of Higher Education
6 serves more than 70,000 undergraduate and grad-
7 uate students in southern Nevada, with enrollment
8 in the System expected to grow by 21 percent during
9 the next 10 years, which would bring enrollment to
10 a total of 85,000 students in the System;

11 (3) the Nevada System of Higher Education
12 campuses in southern Nevada comprise 1,200 acres,
13 1 of the smallest land bases of any major higher
14 education system in the western United States;

15 (4) the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with
16 28,500 students and 3,300 faculty and staff, is the
17 fourth fastest-growing research university in the
18 United States;

19 (5) the College of Southern Nevada—

20 (A) serves 39,000 students each semester;

21 and

22 (B) is near capacity at each of the 3 urban
23 campuses of the College;

24 (6) Pahrump, located in rural Nye County, Ne-
25 vada—

1 (A) has grown by 20 percent since 2000;
2 and

3 (B) has a small satellite campus of Great
4 Basin College to serve the 40,500 residents of
5 Pahrump, Nevada; and

6 (7) the Nevada System of Higher Education
7 needs additional land to provide for the future
8 growth of the System, particularly for the University
9 of Nevada, Las Vegas, the College of Southern Ne-
10 vada, and the Pahrump campus of Great Basin Col-
11 lege.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

13 (1) to provide additional land for a thriving
14 higher education system that serves the residents of
15 fast-growing southern Nevada;

16 (2) to provide residents of the State with great-
17 er opportunities to pursue higher education and the
18 resulting benefits, which include increased earnings,
19 more employment opportunities, and better health;
20 and

21 (3) to provide communities in southern Nevada
22 the economic and societal values of higher education,
23 including economic growth, lower crime rates, great-
24 er civic participation, and less reliance on social
25 services.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) BOARD OF REGENTS.—The term “Board of
4 Regents” means the Board of Regents of the Ne-
5 vada System of Higher Education.

6 (2) CAMPUSES.—The term “Campuses” means
7 the Great Basin College, College of Southern Ne-
8 vada, and University of Las Vegas, Nevada, cam-
9 puses.

10 (3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
11 means each of the 3 parcels of Bureau of Land
12 Management land identified on the maps as “Parcel
13 to be Conveyed”, of which—

14 (A) approximately 40 acres is to be con-
15 veyed for the College of Southern Nevada;

16 (B) approximately 2,085 acres is to be
17 conveyed for the University of Nevada, Las
18 Vegas; and

19 (C) approximately 285 acres is to be con-
20 veyed for the Great Basin College.

21 (4) MAP.—The term “Map” means each of the
22 3 maps entitled “Southern Nevada Higher Edu-
23 cation Land Act”, dated July 11, 2008, and on file
24 and available for public inspection in the appropriate
25 offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
4 of Nevada.

5 (7) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the
6 Nevada System of Higher Education.

7 **SEC. 4. CONVEYANCES OF FEDERAL LAND TO THE SYSTEM.**

8 (a) CONVEYANCES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 202
10 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
11 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) and section 1(c) of the Act
12 of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recre-
13 ation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869(c))
14 and subject to all valid existing rights, the Secretary
15 shall—

16 (A) not later than 180 days after the date
17 of enactment of this Act, convey to the System,
18 without consideration, all right, title, and inter-
19 est of the United States in and to the Federal
20 land for the Great Basin College and the Col-
21 lege of Southern Nevada; and

22 (B) not later than 180 days after the re-
23 ceipt of certification of acceptable remediation
24 of environmental conditions existing on the par-
25 cel to be conveyed for the University of Nevada,

1 Las Vegas, convey to the System, without con-
 2 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the
 3 United States in and to the Federal land for
 4 the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

5 (2) PHASES.—The Secretary may phase the
 6 conveyance of the Federal land under paragraph
 7 (1)(B) as remediation is completed.

8 (b) CONDITIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the con-
 10 veyance under subsection (a)(1), the Board of Re-
 11 gents shall agree in writing—

12 (A) to pay any administrative costs associ-
 13 ated with the conveyance, including the costs of
 14 any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or histor-
 15 ical resources studies;

16 (B) to use the Federal land conveyed for
 17 educational and recreational purposes;

18 (C) to release and indemnify the United
 19 States from any claims or liabilities that may
 20 arise from uses carried out on the Federal land
 21 on or before the date of enactment of this Act
 22 by the United States or any person;

23 (D) as soon as practicable after the date of
 24 the conveyance under subsection (a)(1), to erect
 25 at each of the Campuses an appropriate and

centrally located monument that acknowledges the conveyance of the Federal land by the United States for the purpose of furthering the higher education of the citizens in the State; and

(E) to assist the Bureau of Land Management in providing information to the students of the System and the citizens of the State on—

(i) public land (including the management of public land) in the Nation; and

(ii) the role of the Bureau of Land Management in managing, preserving, and protecting the public land in the State.

(2) AGREEMENT WITH NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.—As a condition of the conveyance of the Federal land for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas under subsection (a)(1)(B), the Board of Regents shall enter into a cooperative interlocal agreement with Nellis Air Force Base that is consistent with the missions of the System and the United States Air Force.

(c) USE OF FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The System may use the Federal land conveyed under subsection (a)(1) for—

1 (A) any purpose relating to the establish-
2 ment, operation, growth, and maintenance of
3 the System; and

4 (B) any uses relating to the purposes, in-
5 cluding residential and commercial development
6 that would generally be associated with an insti-
7 tution of higher education.

8 (2) OTHER ENTITIES.—The System may—

9 (A) consistent with Federal and State law,
10 lease, or otherwise provide property or space at,
11 the Campuses, with or without consideration, to
12 religious, public interest, community, or other
13 groups for services and events that are of inter-
14 est to the System or to any community located
15 in southern Nevada;

16 (B) allow any other communities in south-
17 ern Nevada to use facilities of the Campuses for
18 educational and recreational programs of the
19 community; and

20 (C) in conjunction with the city of Las
21 Vegas, North Las Vegas, or Pahrump or Clark
22 or Nye County plan, finance (including through
23 the provision of cost-share assistance), con-
24 struct, and operate facilities for the city of Las
25 Vegas, North Las Vegas, or Pahrump or Clark

1 or Nye County on the Federal land conveyed
2 for educational or recreational purposes con-
3 sistent with this section.

4 (d) REVERSION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Federal land or any
6 portion of the Federal land conveyed under sub-
7 section (a)(1) ceases to be used for the System, the
8 Federal land, or any portion of the Federal land
9 shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the
10 United States.

11 (2) UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS.—If
12 the System fails to complete the first building or
13 show progression toward development of the Univer-
14 sity of Nevada, Las Vegas campus on the applicable
15 parcels of Federal land by the date that is 50 years
16 after the date of receipt of certification of acceptable
17 remediation of environmental conditions, the parcels
18 of the Federal land described in section 3(3)(B)
19 shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the
20 United States.

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