

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8517

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. GOSAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, 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 “La Paz County Solar  
5 Energy and Job Creation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means La  
9 Paz County, Arizona.

1           (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
2 means the approximately 3,400 acres of land man-  
3 aged by the Bureau of Land Management and des-  
4 ignated as “Federal Land to be Conveyed” on the  
5 map.

6           (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map  
7 prepared by the Bureau of Land Management enti-  
8 tled “BLM Arizona - La Paz County Land Convey-  
9 ance Map” and dated June 29, 2023.

10 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the planning re-  
12 quirement of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land  
13 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712,  
14 1713) and in accordance with this section and other appli-  
15 cable law, as soon as practicable after receiving a request  
16 from the County to convey the Federal land, the Secretary  
17 shall convey the Federal land to the County.

18           (b) RESTRICTIONS ON CONVEYANCE.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under sub-  
20 section (a) shall be subject to—

21                   (A) valid existing rights; and

22                   (B) such terms and conditions as the Sec-  
23 retary determines to be necessary.

24           (2) EXCLUSION.—The Secretary shall exclude  
25 from the conveyance under subsection (a) any Fed-

1       eral land that contains significant cultural, environ-  
2       mental, wildlife, or recreational resources.

3       (c) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The con-  
4       veyance under subsection (a) shall be for the fair market  
5       value of the Federal land to be conveyed, as determined—

6               (1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy  
7       and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et  
8       seq.); and

9               (2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in  
10      accordance with—

11               (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for  
12      Federal Land Acquisitions; and

13               (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional  
14      Appraisal Practice.

15      (d) PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ARTI-  
16      FACTS.—As a condition of the conveyance under sub-  
17      section (a), the County shall, and as a condition of any  
18      subsequent conveyance, any subsequent owner shall—

19               (1) make good faith efforts to avoid disturbing  
20      Tribal artifacts;

21               (2) minimize impacts on Tribal artifacts if they  
22      are disturbed;

23               (3) coordinate with the Colorado River Indian  
24      Tribes Tribal Historic Preservation Office to identify  
25      artifacts of cultural and historic significance; and

1           (4) allow Tribal representatives to rebury un-  
2           earthed artifacts at or near where they were discov-  
3           ered.

4           (e) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The map shall be on file and  
6           available for public inspection in the appropriate of-  
7           fices of the Bureau of Land Management.

8           (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the  
9           County may, by mutual agreement—

10           (A) make minor boundary adjustments to  
11           the Federal land to be conveyed under sub-  
12           section (a); and

13           (B) correct any minor errors in the map,  
14           an acreage estimate, or the description of the  
15           Federal land.

16           (f) WITHDRAWAL.—The Federal land is withdrawn  
17           from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws  
18           of the United States.

19           (g) COSTS.—As a condition of the conveyance of the  
20           Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall pay—

21           (1) an amount equal to the appraised value de-  
22           termined in accordance with subsection (c)(2); and

23           (2) all costs related to the conveyance, including  
24           all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative

1 costs associated with the conveyance of the Federal  
2 land to the County under subsection (a).

3 (h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The pro-  
4 ceeds from the sale of land under this section shall be—

5 (1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Ac-  
6 count established by section 206(a) of the Federal  
7 Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C.  
8 2305(a)); and

9 (2) used in accordance with that Act (43 U.S.C.  
10 2301 et seq.).

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