

S. 813

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 813, a bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 850, a bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress.

S. 854

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 854, a bill to improve student academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 871

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance assistance for victims of sexual assault committed by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose sanctions with respect to certain transactions in

foreign currencies, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 897

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to prevent the doubling of the interest rate for Federal subsidized student loans for the 2013–2014 academic year by providing funds for such loans through the Federal Reserve System, to ensure that such loans are available at interest rates that are equivalent to the interest rates at which the Federal Government provides loans to banks through the discount window operated by the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 931, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 953

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 953, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, to limit earnings stripping by expatriated entities, to provide for modifications related to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 959

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to compounding drugs.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to prohibit amounts made available by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 from being transferred to the Internal Revenue Service for implementation of such Acts.

S. CON. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 15, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Chained Consumer Price Index should not be used to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security or veterans benefits, or to increase the tax burden on low- and middle-income taxpayers.

S. RES. 133

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 133, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress and the States should investigate and correct abusive, unsanitary, and illegal abortion practices.

S. RES. 139

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 139, a resolution celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 969. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, in honor of the 20th anniversary of International Migratory Bird Day on May 11, I am introducing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. More than half of the bird species found in the U.S. migrate across our borders

and many of these spend our winter in Central and South America. This bill promotes international cooperation for long-term conservation, education, research, monitoring, and habitat protection for more than 350 species of neotropical migratory birds. Through its successful competitive, matching grant program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports public-private partnerships in countries mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Up to one quarter of the funds may be awarded for domestic projects.

This legislation aims to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds that are not only beautiful to look at but help our farmers by consuming billions of harmful insect and rodent pests each year, providing pollination services, and dispersing seeds. Migratory birds face threats from pesticide pollution, deforestation, sprawl, and invasive species that degrade their habitats in addition to the natural risks of their extended flights. Birds are excellent indicators of the health of an ecosystem. As such, it is troubling that, according to the National Audubon Society, half of all coastally migrating shorebirds, like the Common Tern and Piping Plover, are experiencing dramatic population declines.

The Baltimore Oriole, the State bird of Maryland and one whose song brightens all of the Northeastern U.S., has steadily declined in population despite being protected by Federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the state of Maryland's Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. Likewise, the iconic Red Knot bird, whose legendary 9,000 mile migration centers on a stopover in the Mid-Atlantic states, is decreasing in population quickly. Threats to these beloved Maryland birds are mainly due to habitat destruction and deforestation, particularly in the Central and South American countries where the birds winter. In addition, international use of toxic pesticides ingested by insects, which are then eaten by the birds, has significantly contributed to this decline. Conservation efforts in our country are essential, but investment in programs throughout the migratory route of these and countless other migratory birds is critical. This legislation accomplishes this goal.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has a proven track record of reversing habitat loss and advancing conservation strategies for the broad range of neotropical birds that populate the United States and the rest of the Western hemisphere. To date, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has administered these grants to support 422 projects in more than 35 countries. The \$46.5 million that this program has provided in grants has leveraged \$178.5 million from partners, almost four additional dollars for every one spent. More than 3.25 million acres of quality bird habitat have benefitted. In addition, birding is among the wildlife watching activities that generate jobs

and income, approximately \$2.7 billion annually, for the U.S. economy.

This legislation is cost-effective, budget-friendly, and has been a highly successful federal program. This simple reauthorization bill will make sure that this good work continues.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 969

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 10 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6109) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, not less than 75 percent shall be expended for projects carried out at a location outside of the United States.”.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 970. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Water Resources Research Amendments Act. First authorized in 1964, the Water Resources Research Act established 54 Water Resources Research Institutes at top land grant universities in each of the 50 States and the U.S. territories. These institutes created a grant program and provided opportunities for applied water supply research. The bill I introduce today would reauthorize the grant program for the next 5 years and would add a program focused on research and development of green infrastructure.

Water and the availability thereof is a defining characteristic of U.S. landscape, culture, wealth, and security. Clean water is a relatively rare and invaluable resource. Last year's funded projects included research into the impacts of climate change on water supply lakes, the development of better detection methods for pathogens in drinking water, and the impacts of drought on farm supply chains. In my own State, some of the tools we use for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay were products of these same grants in previous years. WRRRA Researchers across the Mid-Atlantic States have developed ways to keep the Chesapeake waters cleaner through urban stormwater treatment, improved roadway design, and eco-friendly poultry farming practices. WRRRA-funded

projects develop innovative and cost-effective solutions for similar water resources issues across the country. Undoubtedly, funding WRRRA is an intelligent and necessary investment in the future of our water resources.

WRRRA authorizes two types of annual grants. First, it supplies grants to each Water Resources Research Institute for research that fosters improvements in water supply reliability, explores new ways to address water problems, encourages dissemination of research to water managers and the public, and encourages the entry of new scientists, engineers and technicians into the water resources field. Second, WRRRA authorizes a national competitive grant program to address regional water issues. All WRRRA grants leverage non-federal dollars at a minimum ratio of 2 to 1, but often far beyond that level, as high as 5 to 1.

The Water Resources Research Act was most recently reauthorized in 2006, in PL 109-471. In that period, the program was authorized at \$12,000,000 per year, providing \$6,000,000 each to state and competitive project grants. Authorization for these grants expired in fiscal year 2011. Today's bill would reauthorize both grant programs for an additional 5 years by providing \$7,500,000 for institutional grants and \$1,500,000 for national competitive grants. This lower authorization level reflects our efforts to adjust for present fiscal limitations. The proposed authorization maximizes the economic efficiency of the program without compromising its efficacy. An independent review panel has judged that the Water Resources Research Institutes command significant funding leverage for the modest amount of appropriations required to support it. Thus, we can be sure that we are supporting top-notch science while maximizing cost-effectiveness. Moreover, by funding this network of institutes we are investing in our future. The Water Resources Research Institutes are the country's single largest training program for water scientists, technicians, and engineers.

Today, floods, droughts, and water degradation issues pervade the nation. Simultaneously, water resources are increasingly critical for production of resources, economic stability, and the health and well-being of the citizenry. WRRRA grants provide us with improved understanding of water-related issues and better technology to address them. Nearly half a century after the Water Resources Research grant program was first put in place, this program is relevant, critical, and deserving of our support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 970

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Water Resources Research Amendments Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.—Section 102 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10301) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by striking “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) additional research is required into increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of new and existing treatment works through alternative approaches, including—

“(A) nonstructural alternatives;
“(B) decentralized approaches;
“(C) water use efficiency; and
“(D) actions to reduce energy consumption or extract energy from wastewater;”.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Section 104(b)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “water-related phenomena” and inserting “water resources”; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”.

(c) COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Section 104(c) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “From the” and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report regarding the compliance of each funding recipient with this subsection for the immediately preceding fiscal year.”.

(d) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a careful and detailed evaluation of each institute at least once every 3 years to determine—

“(A) the quality and relevance of the water resources research of the institute;

“(B) the effectiveness of the institute at producing measured results and applied water supply research; and

“(C) whether the effectiveness of the institute as an institution for planning, conducting, and arranging for research warrants continued support under this section.

“(2) PROHIBITION ON FURTHER SUPPORT.—If, as a result of an evaluation under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that an institute does not qualify for further support under this section, no further grants to the institute may be provided until the qualifications of the institute are reestablished to the satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 104(f)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011” and inserting “\$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2018”.

(f) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WHERE RESEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF

INTERSTATE NATURE.—Section 104(g)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(g)(1)) is amended by striking “\$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011” and inserting “\$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2018”.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 971. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I rise to reintroduce the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act with my colleague Senator CRAPO. This legislation would end the legal uncertainty facing the timber industry by enacting legislation to preserve the Environmental Protection Agency’s 37-year old policy treating forest roads as non-point sources under the Clean Water Act.

For 37 years, the EPA has maintained that forest roads are non-point sources. Furthermore, in March of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals’ ruling on forest roads, upholding EPA’s authority to regulate forest roads as nonpoint sources under the Clean Water Act. Various studies show that if the EPA were to change their decades-long position and require Federal, State, county, tribal and private forest road owners to obtain a point source permit, the cost could reach billions of dollars and cost thousands of jobs. The Pacific Northwest needs more jobs in the woods. The way to do that is to get the timber cut up and to stop litigating questions that have already been answered.

In the 112th Congress, Senator CRAPO and I introduced similar legislation on forest roads. The legislation we introduce today is different in only two respects. First, the bill includes new language to prevent forest roads from being otherwise regulated by the EPA. This language is needed because in its March 2013 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the EPA’s authority to regulate forest roads as non-point sources, and therefore not require mandatory point source permits; however, it did not address the Ninth Circuit’s previous ruling that forest roads are point sources. As a result, the EPA must respond to the Court’s ruling that the EPA use its discretionary authority to determine whether or not to regulate forest roads as point sources. This will inevitably result in further litigation over permits for forest roads.

Second, the bill we introduce today includes the language adopted last year by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to clarify the list of forest activities the EPA will not regulate as point sources. The Committee favorable reported the bill with this addition.

Let me be clear. This legislation upholds an existing EPA regulation. Fur-

thermore, this legislation does not weaken the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act remains in the same force as it has since it was enacted in 1972.

The introduction of this bill begins the legislative process. There will be an opportunity for hearings, testimony provided by witnesses and Federal agencies, and public dialogue on this bill. It is my hope that this legislation will provide the certainty that the timber industry needs to increase jobs in the woods, get the timber cut up, and put an end to litigating the question of whether or not EPA has the authority to regulate forest roads as non-point sources.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 971

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act”.

SEC. 2. SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 402(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) NPDES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.—The Administrator shall not require a permit or otherwise promulgate regulations under this section or directly or indirectly require any State to require a permit under this section for a discharge of stormwater runoff resulting from the conduct of the following silvicultural activities: nursery operations, site preparation, reforestation and subsequent cultural treatment, thinning, prescribed burning, pest and fire control, harvesting operations, surface drainage, and road use, construction, and maintenance.

“(B) PERMITS FOR DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL.—Nothing in this paragraph exempts a silvicultural activity resulting in the discharge of dredged or fill material from any permitting requirement under section 404.”.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 974. A bill to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 974

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Las Vegas Valley Public Land and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act of 2013”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

- Sec. 2. Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- Sec. 3. Addition of land to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.
- Sec. 4. Conveyance of Bureau of Land Management land to North Las Vegas.
- Sec. 5. Conveyance of Bureau of Land Management land to Las Vegas.
- Sec. 6. Expansion of conveyance to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
- Sec. 7. Spring Mountains National Recreation Area withdrawal.
- Sec. 8. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 amendments.
- Sec. 9. Conveyance of land to the Nevada System of Higher Education.
- Sec. 10. Land conveyance for Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport.
- Sec. 11. Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area release.
- Sec. 12. Nellis Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area.
- Sec. 13. Conveyance of land for Nellis Air Force Base.
- Sec. 14. Military overflights.

SEC. 2. TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- (1) since 1933, the Upper Las Vegas Wash has been valued by scientists because of the significant paleontological resources demonstrative of the Pleistocene Epoch that are located in the area;
- (2) in 2004, during the preparation of the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Land Management identified sensitive biological, cultural, and paleontological resources determined to be worthy of more evaluation with respect to the protective status of the resources;
- (3) the Upper Las Vegas Wash contains thousands of paleontological resources from the Pleistocene Epoch that are preserved in a unique geological context that are of national importance, including Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, American lion, camels, and horse fossils;
- (4) in addition to Joshua trees and several species of cacti, the Las Vegas buckwheat, Merriam's bearpoppy, and the Las Vegas bearpoppy are 3 unique and imperiled plants that are supported in the harsh desert environment of Tule Springs;
- (5) the area provides important habitat for threatened desert tortoise, endemic poppy bees, kit foxes, burrowing owls, LeConte's thrasher, phainopepla, and a variety of reptiles;
- (6) in studies of the area conducted during the last decade, the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service determined that the area likely contains the longest continuous section of Pleistocene strata in the desert southwest, which span multiple important global climate cooling and warming episodes;
- (7) the Upper Las Vegas Wash is significant to the culture and history of the native and indigenous people of the area, including the Southern Paiute Tribe;
- (8) despite the findings of the studies and recommendations for further assessment of the resources for appropriate methods of protection—
- (A) the area remains inadequately protected; and
- (B) many irreplaceable fossil specimens in the area have been lost to vandalism or theft; and
- (9) designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a National Monument would protect the unique fossil resources of the area and the geological context of those resources for present and future generations

while allowing for public education and continued scientific research opportunities.

- (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
- (1) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Advisory Council established by subsection (g)(1).
- (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark County, Nevada.
- (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local government” means the City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, or the County.
- (4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Monument developed under subsection (d)(5).
- (5) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013.
- (6) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument” means the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument established by subsection (c)(1).
- (7) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).
- (8) PUBLIC WATER AGENCY.—The term “public water agency” means a regional wholesale water provider that is engaged in the acquisition of water on behalf of, or the delivery of water to, water purveyors who are member agencies of the public water agency.
- (9) QUALIFIED ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “qualified electric utility” means any public or private utility determined by the Secretary to be technically and financially capable of developing the transmission line.
- (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (11) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Nevada.
- (c) ESTABLISHMENT.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to conserve, protect, interpret, and enhance for the benefit of present and future generations the unique and nationally important paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources and values of the land described in this subsection, there is established in the State, subject to valid existing rights, the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.
- (2) BOUNDARIES.—The Monument shall consist of approximately 22,650 acres of public land in the County within the boundaries generally depicted on the Map.
- (3) MAP; LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare an official map and legal description of the boundaries of the Monument.
- (B) LEGAL EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under subparagraph (A) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the legal description or the map.
- (C) AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The map and legal description prepared under subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.
- (4) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within or adjacent to the boundaries of the Monument by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer from another Federal agency.
- (B) LIMITATION.—Land or interests in land that are owned by the State or a political subdivision of the State may be acquired

under subparagraph (A) only by donation or exchange.

- (5) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights and subsections (e) and (f), any land within the Monument or any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States for inclusion in the Monument after the date of enactment of this Act is withdrawn from—
- (A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- (B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (C) operation of the mineral leasing laws, geothermal leasing laws, and minerals materials laws.
- (6) RELATIONSHIP TO CLARK COUNTY MULTISPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.—
- (A) AMENDMENT TO PLAN.—The Secretary shall credit, on an acre-for-acre basis, approximately 22,650 acres of the land conserved for the Monument under this Act toward the development of additional non-Federal land within the County through an amendment to the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- (B) EFFECT ON PLAN.—Nothing in this Act otherwise limits, alters, modifies, or amends the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
- (d) ADMINISTRATION.—
- (1) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—Administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 22,650 acres of public land depicted on the Map as “Tule Springs Fossil Bed National Monument” is transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service.
- (2) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall—
- (A) allow only such uses of the Monument that—
- (i) are consistent with this section;
- (ii) the Secretary determines would further the purposes of the Monument; and
- (iii) are consistent with existing rights of previously authorized water facility and high voltage transmission facility rights-of-way and any rights-of-way issued under this Act, including the operation, maintenance, replacement, and repair and repair of the facility; and
- (B) manage the Monument—
- (i) in a manner that conserves, protects, interprets, and enhances the resources and values of the Monument; and
- (ii) in accordance with—
- (I) this section;
- (II) the provisions of laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System (including the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.)); and
- (III) any other applicable laws.
- (3) BUFFER ZONES.—The establishment of the Monument shall not—
- (A) lead to the creation of express or implied protective perimeters or buffer zones around or over the Monument;
- (B) preclude disposal or development of public land adjacent to the boundaries of the Monument, if the disposal or development is consistent with other applicable law;
- (C) preclude an activity on, or use of, private land adjacent to the boundaries of the Monument, if the activity or use is consistent with other applicable law; or
- (D) directly or indirectly subject an activity on, or use of, private land, to additional regulation, if the activity or use is consistent with other applicable law.
- (4) AIR AND WATER QUALITY.—Nothing in this Act alters the standards governing air or water quality outside the boundary of the Monument.
- (5) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan

that provides for the long-term protection and management of the Monument.

(B) COMPONENTS.—The management plan—
(i) shall, consistent with this section and the purposes of the Monument—

(I) describe the resources at the Monument that are to be protected;

(II) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Monument;

(III) allow for continued scientific research at the Monument; and

(IV) include a travel management plan that may include existing public transit; and
(ii) may—

(I) incorporate any appropriate decisions contained in an existing management or activity plan for the land designated as the Monument under subsection (c)(1); and

(II) use information developed in any study of land within, or adjacent to, the boundary of the Monument that was conducted before the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) PUBLIC PROCESS.—In preparing the management plan, the Secretary shall—

(i) consult with, and take into account the comments and recommendations of, the Council;

(ii) provide an opportunity for public involvement in the preparation and review of the management plan, including holding public meetings;

(iii) consider public comments received as part of the public review and comment process of the management plan; and

(iv) consult with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders involved in establishing and improving the regional trail system to incorporate, where appropriate, trails in the Monument that link to the regional trail system.

(6) INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION, AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for public interpretation of, and education and scientific research on, the paleontological resources of the Monument, with priority given to exhibiting and curating the resources.

(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and appropriate public and private entities to carry out subparagraph (A).

(c) RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of a complete application from a qualified electric utility, the Secretary, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), shall issue to the qualified electric utility a 400-foot right-of-way for the construction and maintenance of high-voltage transmission facilities depicted on the Map as “Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor” if the high-voltage transmission facilities do not conflict with other previously authorized rights-of-way within the corridor.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The high-voltage transmission facilities shall—

(i) be used—

(I) primarily, to the maximum extent practicable, for renewable energy resources; and
(II) to meet reliability standards set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, or the public utilities regulator of the State; and

(ii) employ best management practices identified as part of the compliance of the Secretary with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to limit impacts on the Monument, including impacts to the viewshed.

(B) CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall consult with the qualified electric utility that is

issued the right-of-way under paragraph (1) and the public utilities regulator of the State to seek to maximize the capacity of the high-voltage transmission facilities.

(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance of a notice to proceed on the construction of the high-voltage transmission facilities within the right-of-way under paragraph (1) shall be subject to terms and conditions that the Secretary (in consultation with the qualified electric utility), as part of the compliance of the Secretary with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), determines appropriate to protect and conserve the resources for which the Monument is managed.

(4) EXPIRATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The right-of-way issued under paragraph (1) shall expire on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act if construction of the high-voltage transmission facilities described in paragraph (1) has not been initiated by that date, unless the Secretary determines that it is in the public interest to continue the right-of-way.

(f) WATER CONVEYANCE FACILITIES.—

(1) WATER CONVEYANCE FACILITIES CORRIDOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of 1 or more complete applications from a public water agency and except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), shall issue to the public water agency a 100-foot right-of-way for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a buried water conveyance pipeline and associated facilities within the “Water Conveyance Facilities Corridor” and the “Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor” depicted on the Map.

(B) LIMITATION.—A public water agency right-of-way shall not be granted under subparagraph (A) within the portion of the Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor that is located along the Moccasin Drive alignment, which is generally between T. 18 S. and T. 19 S., Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian.

(2) BURIED WATER CONVEYANCE PIPELINE.—On receipt of 1 or more complete applications from a unit of local government or public water agency, the Secretary, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), shall issue to the unit of local government or public water agency a 100-foot right-of-way for the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a buried water conveyance pipeline to access the existing buried water pipeline turnout facility and surge tank located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 16 of T. 19 S. and R. 61 E.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The water conveyance facilities shall employ best management practices identified as part of the compliance of the Secretary with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to limit the impacts of the water conveyance facilities on the Monument.

(B) CONSULTATIONS.—The water conveyance facilities within the “Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor” shall be sited in consultation with the qualified electric utility to limit the impacts of the water conveyance facilities on the high-voltage transmission facilities.

(4) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance of a notice to proceed on the construction of the water conveyance facilities within the right-of-way under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary, in consultation with the public water agency, as part of the compliance of the Secretary with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et

seq.), determines appropriate to protect and conserve the resources for which the Monument is managed.

(g) TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To provide guidance for the management of the Monument, there is established the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Advisory Council.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall consist of 13 members, to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be a member of, or be nominated by, the County Commission;

(ii) 1 member shall be a member of, or be nominated by, the city council of Las Vegas, Nevada;

(iii) 1 member shall be a member of, or be nominated by, the city council of North Las Vegas, Nevada;

(iv) 1 member shall be a member of, or be nominated by, the tribal council of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe;

(v) 1 member shall be a representative of the conservation community in southern Nevada;

(vi) 1 member shall be a representative of, or be nominated by, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(vii) 1 member shall be a representative of, or be nominated by, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(viii) 1 member shall be a representative of, or be nominated by, the Director of the National Park Service;

(ix) 1 member shall be a representative of Nellis Air Force Base;

(x) 1 member shall be nominated by the State;

(xi) 1 member shall reside in the County and have a background that reflects the purposes for which the Monument was established; and

(xii) 2 members shall reside in the County or adjacent counties, both of whom shall have experience in the field of paleontology, obtained through higher education, experience, or both.

(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the initial members of the Council in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(3) DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.—The Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to—

(A) the preparation and implementation of the management plan; and

(B) other issues related to the management of the Monument (including budgetary matters).

(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for serving on the Council.

(5) CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Council shall elect a Chairperson from among the members of the Council.

(B) LIMITATION.—The Chairperson shall not be a member of a Federal or State agency.

(C) TERM.—The term of the Chairperson shall be 3 years.

(6) TERM OF MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a member of the Council shall be 3 years.

(B) SUCCESSORS.—Notwithstanding the expiration of a 3-year term of a member of the Council, a member may continue to serve on the Council until—

(i) the member is reappointed by the Secretary; or

(ii) a successor is appointed.

(7) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Council shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(B) APPOINTMENT FOR REMAINDER OF TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council—

(i) shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed; and

(ii) may be nominated for a subsequent term.

(8) TERMINATION.—Unless an extension is jointly recommended by the Director of the National Park Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Council shall terminate on the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. ADDITION OF LAND TO RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Conservation Area” means the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area established by the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc et seq.).

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) ADDITION OF LAND TO CONSERVATION AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Conservation Area is expanded to include the land depicted on the map as “Additions to Red Rock NCA”.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the land is acquired, the Secretary shall update the management plan for the Conservation Area to reflect the management requirements of the acquired land.

(3) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(B) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(i) the map; or

(ii) the legal description.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 4. CONVEYANCE OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND TO NORTH LAS VEGAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013.

(2) NORTH LAS VEGAS.—The term “North Las Vegas” means the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to North Las Vegas, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (b) consists of the land managed by the Bureau of Land Management described on the map as the “North Las Vegas Job Creation Zone” (including the interests in the land).

(d) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) USE OF LAND FOR NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—North Las Vegas may sell, lease, or otherwise convey any portion of the land described in subsection (c) for nonresidential development.

(2) METHOD OF SALE.—The sale, lease, or conveyance of land under paragraph (1) shall be carried out—

(A) through a competitive bidding process; and

(B) for not less than fair market value.

(3) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the land under paragraph (2)(B) based on an appraisal that is performed in accordance with—

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

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(4) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—The gross proceeds from the sale, lease, or conveyance of land under paragraph (1) shall be distributed in accordance with section 4(e) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2345; 116 Stat. 2007; 117 Stat. 1317; 118 Stat. 2414; 120 Stat. 3045).

(f) USE OF LAND FOR RECREATION OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—North Las Vegas may retain a portion of the land described in subsection (c) for public recreation or other public purposes consistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.) by providing written notice of the election to the Secretary.

(2) REVOCATION.—If North Las Vegas retains land for public recreation or other public purposes under paragraph (1), North Las Vegas may—

(A) revoke that election; and

(B) sell, lease, or convey the land in accordance with subsection (e).

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—North Las Vegas shall pay all appraisal costs, survey costs, and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (c).

(h) REVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any parcel of land described in subsection (c) is not conveyed for nonresidential development under this section or reserved for recreation or other public purposes under subparagraph (f) by the date that is 30 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(2) INCONSISTENT USE.—If North Las Vegas uses any parcel of land described in subsection (c) in a manner that is inconsistent with this section—

(A) at the discretion of the Secretary, the parcel shall revert to the United States; or

(B) if the Secretary does not make an election under subparagraph (A), North Las Vegas shall sell the parcel of land in accordance with this section.

SEC. 5. CONVEYANCE OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND TO LAS VEGAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LAS VEGAS.—The term “Las Vegas” means the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights, and notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary shall convey to Las Vegas, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (b) consists of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management described on the map as “Las Vegas Job Creation Zone” (including interests in the land).

(d) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Las Vegas may sell, lease, or otherwise convey any portion of the land described in subsection (c) for nonresidential development.

(2) METHOD OF SALE.—The sale, lease, or conveyance of land under paragraph (1) shall be carried out, after consultation with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe—

(A) through a competitive bidding process; and

(B) for not less than fair market value.

(3) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the land under paragraph (2)(B) based on an appraisal that is performed in accordance with—

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

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(4) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—The gross proceeds from the sale, lease, or conveyance of land under paragraph (1) shall be distributed in accordance with section 4(e) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2345; 116 Stat. 2007; 117 Stat. 1317; 118 Stat. 2414; 120 Stat. 3045).

(f) USE OF LAND FOR RECREATION OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Las Vegas may retain a portion of the land described in subsection (c) for public recreation or other public purposes consistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.) by providing written notice of the election to the Secretary.

(2) REVOCATION.—If Las Vegas retains land for public recreation or other public purposes under paragraph (1), Las Vegas may—

(A) revoke that election; and

(B) sell, lease, or convey the land in accordance with subsection (e).

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Las Vegas shall pay all appraisal costs, survey costs, and other administrative costs necessary for

the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (c).

(h) REVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any parcel of land described in subsection (c) is not conveyed for nonresidential development under this section or reserved for recreation or other public purposes under subsection (f) by the date that is 30 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(2) INCONSISTENT USE.—If Las Vegas uses any parcel of land described in subsection (c) in a manner that is inconsistent with this section—

(A) at the discretion of the Secretary, the parcel shall revert to the United States; or

(B) if the Secretary does not make an election under subparagraph (A), Las Vegas shall sell the parcel of land in accordance with this section.

SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF CONVEYANCE TO LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Section 703 of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-282; 116 Stat. 2013) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and the parcel of land identified as ‘Conveyance to Las Vegas for Police Shooting Range Access’ on the map entitled ‘North Las Vegas Valley Overview’, and dated April 30, 2013”.

SEC. 7. SPRING MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA WITHDRAWAL.

Section 8 of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460hh-6) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “for lands described” and inserting “as provided”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), W½ E ½ and W ½, sec. 27, T. 23 S., R. 58 E., Mt. Diablo Meridian is not subject to withdrawal under that subsection.

“(2) EFFECT OF ENTRY UNDER PUBLIC LAND LAWS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subsection (a), the following are not subject to withdrawal under that paragraph:

“(A) Any Federal land in the Recreation Area that qualifies for conveyance under Public Law 97-465 (commonly known as the “Small Tracts Act”) (16 U.S.C. 521c et seq.), which, notwithstanding section 7 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 521i), may be conveyed under that Act.

“(B) Any Federal land in the Recreation Area that the Secretary determines to be appropriate for conveyance by exchange for non-Federal land within the Recreation Area under authorities generally providing for the exchange of National Forest System land.”.

SEC. 8. SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENTS.

Section 4 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2344; 116 Stat. 2007) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking “dated October 1, 2002” and inserting “dated April 30, 2013”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), subject to paragraphs (1) through (3), Clark County may convey to a unit of local government or regional governmental entity, without consideration, land located within the Airport Environs Overlay District (as of the date of enactment of this paragraph) if the land is used for a water or wastewater treatment facility or any other public purpose consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14,

1926 (commonly known as the ‘Recreation and Public Purposes Act’) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), provided that if the conveyed land is used for a purpose other than a public purpose, paragraph (4) would apply to the conveyance.”.

SEC. 9. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BOARD OF REGENTS.—The term “Board of Regents” means the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

(2) CAMPUSES.—The term “Campuses” means the Great Basin College, College of Southern Nevada, and University of Las Vegas, Nevada, campuses.

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

(A) approximately 40 acres is to be conveyed for the College of Southern Nevada;

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

(C) approximately 285 acres is to be conveyed for the Great Basin College.

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

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Nevada.

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

(b) CONVEYANCES OF FEDERAL LAND TO THE SYSTEM.—

(1) CONVEYANCES.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) and section 1(c) of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869(c)) and subject to all valid existing rights, the Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, convey to the System, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to—

(i) the Federal land identified on the map entitled “Great Basin College Land Conveyance” and dated June 26, 2012, for the Great Basin College; and

(ii) the Federal land identified on the map entitled “College of Southern Nevada Land Conveyance” and dated June 26, 2012, for the College of Southern Nevada, subject to the requirement that, as a precondition of the conveyance, the Board of Regents shall, by mutual assent, enter into a binding development agreement with the City of Las Vegas that—

(I) provides for the orderly development of the Federal land to be conveyed under this subclause; and

(II) complies with State law; and

(B) convey to the System, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land identified on the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013 for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, if the area identified as “Potential Utility Schedule” on the map is reserved for use for a potential 400-foot utility corridor of certain rights-of-way for transportation and public utilities.

(2) CONDITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the conveyance under paragraph (1), the Board of Regents shall agree in writing—

(i) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance, including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

(ii) to use the Federal land conveyed for educational and recreational purposes;

(iii) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities that may arise from uses carried out on the Fed-

eral land on or before the date of enactment of this Act by the United States or any person; and

(iv) 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.

(B) AGREEMENT WITH NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal land conveyed to the System under paragraph (1)(B) shall be used in accordance with the agreement entitled the “Cooperative Interlocal Agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on Behalf of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the 99th Air Base Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada” and dated June 19, 2009.

(ii) MODIFICATIONS.—Any modifications to the agreement described in clause (i) or any related master plan shall require the mutual assent of the parties to the agreement.

(iii) LIMITATION.—In no case shall the use of the Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1)(B) compromise the national security mission or aviation rights of Nellis Air Force Base.

(3) USE OF FEDERAL LAND.—The System may use the Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1) for any public purposes consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(4) REVERSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Federal land or any portion of the Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1) ceases to be used for the System, the Federal land, or any portion of the Federal land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(B) UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS.—If the System fails to complete the first building or show progression toward development of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus on the applicable parcels of Federal land by the date that is 50 years after the date of receipt of certification of acceptable remediation of environmental conditions, the parcels of the Federal land described in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(C) COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA.—If the System fails to complete the first building or show progression toward development of the College of Southern Nevada campus on the applicable parcels of Federal land by the date that is 12 years after the date of conveyance of the applicable parcels of Federal land to the College of Southern Nevada, the parcels of the Federal land described in subsection (a)(3)(A) shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 10. LAND CONVEYANCE FOR SOUTHERN NEVADA SUPPLEMENTAL AIRPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark County, Nevada.

(2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Land Conveyance for Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport” and dated June 26, 2012.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) LAND CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date described in paragraph (2), subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (3), and notwithstanding the land use

planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (c).

(2) DATE ON WHICH CONVEYANCE MAY BE MADE.—The Secretary shall not make the conveyance described in paragraph (1) until the later of the date on which the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration has—

(A) approved an airport layout plan for an airport to be located in the Ivanpah Valley; and

(B) with respect to the construction and operation of an airport on the site conveyed to the County pursuant to section 2(a) of the Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act (Public Law 106-362; 114 Stat. 1404), issued a record of decision after the preparation of an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(3) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—In conveying the public land under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall reserve the mineral estate, except for purposes related to flood mitigation (including removal from aggregate flood events).

(4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the public land to be conveyed under paragraph (1) is withdrawn from—

(A) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(B) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

(5) USE.—The public land conveyed under paragraph (1) shall be used for the development of flood mitigation infrastructure for the Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport.

(6) REVERSION AND REENTRY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the land conveyed to the County under the Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act (Public Law 106-362; 114 Stat. 1404) reverts to the United States, the land conveyed to the County under this section shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States.

(B) USE OF LAND.—If the Secretary determines that the County is not using the land conveyed under this section for a purpose described in paragraph (4), all right, title, and interest of the County in and to the land shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States.

(C) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (b) consists of the approximately 2,320 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and described on the map as the “Conveyance Area”.

(d) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare an official legal description and map of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 11. SUNRISE MOUNTAIN INSTANT STUDY AREA RELEASE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land in Clark County, Nevada, administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(b) RELEASE.—Any public land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as wilderness—

(1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(2) shall be managed in accordance with land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(c) POST RELEASE LAND USE APPROVALS.—Recognizing that the area released under subsection (b) presents unique opportunities for the granting of additional rights-of-way, including for high voltage transmission facilities, the Secretary of the Interior may accommodate multiple applicants within a particular right-of-way.

SEC. 12. NELLIS DUNES OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

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

(3) ECONOMIC SUPPORT AREA.—The term “Economic Support Area” means the land identified on the map as the “Economic Support Area”.

(4) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 1,211 acres of Federal land in the County, as depicted on the map.

(5) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Nellis Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area” and dated April 30, 2013.

(6) NELLIS DUNES RECREATION AREA.—The term “Nellis Dunes Recreation Area” means the Nellis Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area identified on the map as “Nellis Dunes OHV Recreation Area”.

(7) NET PROCEEDS.—The term “net proceeds” means the amount that is equal to the difference between—

(A) the amount of gross revenues received by the County from any activities at the Economic Support Area; and

(B) the total amount expended by the County (or a designee of the County) for capital improvements to each of the Economic Support Area and the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area, provided that the capital improvements shall not exceed 80 percent of the total gross proceeds.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Nevada.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County, subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (2), without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of Federal land.

(2) RESERVATION OF MINERAL ESTATE.—In conveying the parcels of Federal land under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall reserve the mineral estate, except for purposes related to flood mitigation (including removal from aggregate flood events).

(3) USE OF FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The parcels of Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1)—

(i) shall be used by the County—

(I) to provide a suitable location for the establishment of a centralized off-road vehicle recreation park in the County;

(II) to provide the public with opportunities for off-road vehicle recreation, including a location for races, competitive events, training and other commercial services that directly support a centralized off-road vehicle recreation area and County park; and

(III) to provide a designated area and facilities that would discourage unauthorized use of off-highway vehicles in areas that

have been identified by the Federal Government, State government, or County government as containing environmentally sensitive land; and

(ii) shall not be disposed of by the County.

(B) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use any parcel of the Federal land for the purposes described in subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (D)—

(i) title to the parcel shall revert to the United States, at the option of the United States; and

(ii) the County shall be responsible for any reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to the United States.

(C) RENEWABLE AND SOLAR ENERGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the parcels of Federal land conveyed to the County under paragraph (1) and the land conveyed to the County under section 1(c) of Public Law 107-350 (116 Stat. 2975), may be used for the incidental purpose of generating renewable energy and solar energy for use by the Clark County Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Park, the shooting park authorized under that Act, and the County.

(ii) LIMITATION.—Any project authorized under clause (i) shall not interfere with the national security mission of Nellis Air Force Base or any other military operation.

(iii) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—Before the construction of any proposed project under clause (i), the project proponent shall consult with the Secretary of Defense or a designee of the Secretary of Defense.

(D) FUTURE CONVEYANCES.—Any future conveyance of Federal land for addition to the Clark County Off Highway Vehicle Park or the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area shall be subject to—

(i) the binding interlocal agreement under paragraph (4)(B); and

(ii) the aviation easement requirements under paragraph (7).

(E) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary of the Air Force and the County, may develop a special management plan for the Federal land—

(i) to enhance public safety and safe off-highway vehicle recreation use in the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area;

(ii) to ensure compatible development with the mission requirements of the Nellis Air Force Base; and

(iii) to avoid and mitigate known public health risks associated with off-highway vehicle use in the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area.

(4) ECONOMIC SUPPORT AREA.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—There is designated the Economic Support Area.

(B) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Before the Economic Support Area may be developed, the City and County shall enter into an interlocal agreement regarding the development of the Economic Support Area.

(ii) LIMITATION OF AGREEMENT.—In no case shall the interlocal agreement under this subparagraph compromise or interfere with the aviation rights provided under paragraph (7) and subsection (c)(3).

(C) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Of the net proceeds from the development of the Economic Support Area, the County shall—

(i) annually deposit 50 percent in a special account in the Treasury, to be used by the Secretary for the development, maintenance, operations, and environmental restoration and mitigation of the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area; and

(ii) retain 50 percent, to be used by the County—

(I) to pay for capital improvements [that are not covered by subsection (a)(7)(B)]; and

(II) to maintain and operate the park established under paragraph (3)(A)(i)(I).

(5) AGREEMENT WITH NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the Federal land may be conveyed to the County under paragraph (1), the Clark County Board of Commissioners and Nellis Air Force Base shall enter into an interlocal agreement for the Federal land and the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area—

(i) to enhance safe off-highway recreation use; and

(ii) to ensure that development of the Federal land is consistent with the long-term mission requirements of Nellis Air Force Base.

(B) LIMITATION.—The use of the Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1) shall not compromise the national security mission or aviation rights of Nellis Air Force Base.

(6) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—With respect to the conveyance of Federal land under paragraph (1), the Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(7) AVIATION EASEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each deed entered into for the conveyance of the Federal land shall contain a perpetual aviation easement reserving to the United States all rights necessary to preserve free and unobstructed overflight in and through the airspace above, over, and across the surface of the Federal land conveyed under subsection (b)(1) for the passage of aircraft owned or operated by any Federal agency or other Federal entity.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Each easement described in subparagraph (A) shall include such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Air Force determines to be necessary to comply with subparagraph (A).

(C) DESIGNATION OF THE NELLIS DUNES NATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 10,000 acres of land identified as “Nellis Dunes” in the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan shall be known and designated as the “Nellis Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area”.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Director of the Bureau of Land Management may develop a special management plan for the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area to enhance the safe use of off-highway vehicles for recreational purposes.

(3) AVIATION RIGHTS.—The aviation rights described in subsection (b)(7) shall apply to the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area.

(D) WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF LAND FOR NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.—

(1) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and except as otherwise provided in this subsection—

(A) the Federal land and interests in the Federal land identified on the map as “Land to be withdrawn for Nellis Air Force Base” are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws, including the mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing laws; and

(B) jurisdiction over the land and interest in land withdrawn and reserved by this subsection is transferred to the Secretary of the Air Force.

(2) RESERVATION.—The land withdrawn under paragraph (1) is reserved for use by the Secretary of the Air Force for—

(A) the enlargement and protection of Nellis Air Force Base; or

(B) other defense-related purposes consistent with the purposes of this subsection.

(3) CHANGES IN USE.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall consult with the Secretary before using the land withdrawn and reserved by this subsection for any purpose other than the purposes described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(i).

(4) EASEMENT.—The United States reserves—

(A) a right of flight for the passage of aircraft in the airspace above the surface of the Federal land conveyed to the County; and

(B) the right to cause in the airspace any noise, vibration, smoke, or other effects that may be inherent in the operation of aircraft landing at, or taking off from, Nellis Air Force Base.

SEC. 13. CONVEYANCE OF LAND FOR NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over the parcel of Federal land described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the Air Force for inclusion in Nellis Air Force Base.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of Federal land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 410 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and identified as “Addition to Nellis Air Force Base” on the map entitled “North Las Vegas Valley Overview” and dated April 30, 2013.

SEC. 14. MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) military aircraft testing and training activities in the State of Nevada—

(A) are an important part of the national defense system of the United States; and

(B) are essential in order to secure an enduring and viable national defense system for the current and future generations of people of the United States;

(2) the units of the National Park System and the additions to the Conservation Area established under this Act are located within a region critical to providing training, research, and development for the Armed Forces of the United States and allies of the Armed Forces;

(3) there is a lack of alternative sites available for the military training, testing, and research activities being conducted in the State of Nevada;

(4) continued use of the airspace in the State of Nevada is essential for military purposes; and

(5) continuation of the military activities in the State of Nevada, under appropriate terms and conditions, is not incompatible with the protection and proper management of the natural, environmental, cultural, and other resources and values of Federal land in the State of Nevada.

(b) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act or any other land management law applicable to a new unit of the National Park System or an addition to the Conservation Area designated by this Act shall restrict or preclude overflights, including—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the Federal land; and

(2) military overflights that can be seen or heard within the unit or Conservation Area.

(c) SPECIAL AIRSPACE.—Nothing in this Act or any other land management law applicable to a new unit of the National Park or an addition to the Conservation Area designated by this Act shall restrict or preclude the designation of new units of special airspace or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the unit or Conservation Area.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 980. A bill to provide for enhanced embassy security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise at this moment, as chairman of

the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, outraged at the implication that we in the Senate have not done enough to investigate what has happened in Benghazi; that we have not investigated it thoroughly; that we have not looked at the details, have not analyzed the information—classified and unclassified—that has come before us.

The committee has held four hearings—four—on the attack on Special Mission Benghazi. The very first hearing I chaired in January was on this topic with Secretary Clinton. In fact, we postponed the nomination hearing of Senator Kerry so that Secretary Clinton could come before us and explain what happened and why, despite her medical condition at the time.

Let's make that very clear. One of the very first things we did, despite a pending nomination of a new Secretary, and the sitting Secretary's medical concerns, was to hold a hearing on this topic and air the facts. Prior to that, Chairman Kerry held a hearing of the committee on December 20 on the events that transpired in Benghazi with Deputy Secretaries Burns and Nides. There were also two classified briefings in December specifically on the circumstances surrounding the attack. The December 13 briefing included a video of the attack with high level officials from State, the Joint Staff, Defense Department, the FBI, and the intelligence community. They included Patrick Kennedy, Under Secretary of State for Management at State; Matthew Olsen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center; Maj. Gen. Darryl Roberson, Vice Director of Operations at the Joint Staff; Gary Reid, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict; Jenny Ley, Deputy Assistant Director at the FBI.

On December 19, there was a high-level classified briefing with the Accountability Review Board with Ambassador Pickering and Admiral Mullen.

At his nomination hearing in January, Secretary Kerry also fully addressed this issue and then again at the committee's annual budget hearing this past April. Last week, the nominee to be our new Ambassador to Libya, Deborah Kay Jones, testified before the full committee—another opportunity for my friends on the other side to ask questions, to get the truth, not create their own truth for political purposes. That hearing was yet another opportunity to ask questions about the security situation on the ground. Yet Republican participation was limited to just a handful of Members.

We have fully vetted this issue. We have held hearing after hearing. We have, on both sides, had the opportunity to have our questions answered. In fact, in total, between the House and the Senate, there have been 11 hearings on Benghazi, 25,000 pages of documents released, and now a full e-mail history of the interagency process.

Our focus now should not be on the work product of the CIA or State on draft talking points we have seen in hundreds of e-mails released by the White House yesterday; it should not be to score political points at the expense of the families of the four victims. It should be on doing all we can to protect our personnel serving overseas and providing the necessary oversight and legislative authority to carry out the Administrative Review Board's recommendations.

I would remind my friends and the American people that nothing has changed. The facts remain the facts. They are the same today as they were in September, in October, in November, in December, and in January. It is the rhetoric and the political calculus that has changed. In fact, the e-mails released by the White House further demonstrate that point.

The original CIA-produced talking points, notably produced as the result of a request by the House Intelligence Committee for media interviews, clearly show that in the days immediately after the attack, the intelligence community was not sure what exactly happened or who was responsible. The points produced by the CIA said the agency's belief the events in Benghazi were spontaneously inspired by the protests at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and evolved into a direct assault against the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi and subsequently its annex. That point stays in the talking points from beginning to end of the inter-agency process, with no debate, and is conveyed to the House Intelligence Committee.

Throughout the e-mail discussions, the agency makes clear their information is limited and that there is a lot they simply don't know. In fact, the National Counterterrorism Center says in one e-mail:

At this point we are not aware of any actionable intelligence that this attack was planned or imminent. The intelligence community is combing through reporting from before and after the attack to determine the full extent of who was involved.

It became clear over time that this was, in fact, a calculated terrorist attack, but there was no political calculation involved in the initial assessment.

So let's be honest about what is happening here. It is not about doing all we can to find the truth and making sure it never happens again; it is about political gamesmanship and finding someone to blame.

I remind my friends, and the American people, again, nothing has changed. Some wish to make this a political issue to drive a purely political agenda. I believe our real focus, our honest focus, and what the American people truly care about is the security

of our missions and the safety of our personnel. That has been, and will remain, the clear focus of the Foreign Relations Committee going forward, and I hope we will have the support of our Republican colleagues.

In my view the Monday morning quarterbacking on this issue is politically driven—a perspective shared by former Republican Defense Secretary Gates, who said on Sunday: “Frankly, I think my decisions would have been just as theirs were” with regard to sending in Special Forces teams or overflights by fighter aircraft based in Italy.

Former Secretary Gates said:

Without knowing what the environment is, without knowing what the threat is, without having any intelligence in terms of what is actually going on, on the ground, would have been very dangerous.

So I think we have common interests. I have been working hard to ensure full implementation of all 29 recommendations made by the Administrative Review Board—recommendations to ensure that going forward we are providing adequate personnel and resources to meet local conditions at more than 280 facilities in over 180 countries around the world, specifically where host nations are unable to provide adequate protection to our diplomats. I call on our Republican colleagues to join us in that effort.

Today, I am introducing legislation. I hope we will be able to count on the support of all of our colleagues to enact this crucial, time-sensitive legislation without delay, without obstruction, and without political grandstanding.

The bill will provide authority to fund the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program to permit us to move forward with construction at high-risk, high-threat posts. This account was created following the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and in Tanzania, and at that time it would have allowed us to construct 8 to 10 facilities per year. However, the way the Congress is funding it, it presently is funding for construction of just two to three facilities per year, despite the fact that there are at least two dozen posts that fall into that high-risk, high-threat category. At that rate it will take us over 8 years to get around to construction at just the posts with the highest risk of attack.

The bill authorizes funding for Arabic language training and for a Foreign Affairs Security Training Center to train diplomatic security personnel. It provides contract authority to the State Department to allow it to award contracts on a best value basis rather than to the lowest bidder where conditions require enhanced levels of security. At the administration's request, the bill will authorize disciplinary ac-

tion in cases of unsatisfactory leadership by senior officials related to a security incident, which does not presently exist. This will allow appropriate disciplinary action to be taken against any future officials in a circumstance such as Benghazi.

The bill requires planning to incorporate additional marine security guards at overseas facilities, and it requires extensive reporting on State's implementation of the Accountability Review Board's recommendations on the designation of high-risk, high-threat posts.

I hope we can work together to do what has to be done to protect those who serve this Nation abroad. If we want to address the problem, we have an opportunity to do it. If we want to score political points, fine, but do not do it at the risk of American lives. Let's work together to fix the problem, not use it for political advantage.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 983. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from enforcing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 983

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On May 10, 2013, the Internal Revenue Service admitted that it singled out advocacy groups, based on ideology, seeking tax-exempt status.

(2) This action raises pertinent questions about the agency's ability to implement and oversee the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

(3) This action could be an indication of future Internal Revenue Service abuses in relation to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, given that it is their responsibility to enforce a key provision, the individual mandate.

(4) Americans accept the principle that patients, families, and doctors should be making medical decisions, not the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITING ENFORCEMENT OF PPACA AND HCERA.

The Secretary of the Treasury, or any delegate of the Secretary, shall not implement or enforce any provisions of or amendments made by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—RECOGNIZING THE THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2013

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 143

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as World Press Freedom Day to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to evaluate freedom of the press around the world, to defend the media from attacks on its independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas 2013 is the 20th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme “Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111-166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of freedom of the press around the world in the annual human rights report of the Department of State;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, the percentage of people in the world who live in countries with a free media environment fell to 14 percent in 2012, the lowest percentage in more than a decade;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 88 journalists and 47 citizen journalists were killed in 2012 in connection with their collection and dissemination of news and information, an increase of 33 percent and 840 percent, respectively, compared to 2011;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the five deadliest countries for journalists in 2012 were Syria, Somalia, Pakistan, Mexico, and Brazil;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 593 journalists have been murdered since 1992 without the perpetrators of those crimes facing punishment;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the five countries with the highest number of unsolved journalist murders since 2003 as a percentage of the population of that country are Iraq, Somalia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Colombia;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 879 journalists and 144 citizen journalists were arrested in 2012;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, there were a record 232 journalists in prison worldwide on December 1, 2012;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the five countries in which the most

journalists are imprisoned are Turkey, China, Eritrea, Iran, and Syria;

Whereas the abuse of anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws to incarcerate journalists and suppress freedom of the press occurred on numerous occasions abroad in 2012;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, the activism of civil society, and socio-economic development;

Whereas, in the ongoing political transition of Burma, notable progress was made in advancing freedom of the press in 2012, although certain problems remain; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2013;

(2) commends journalists around the world for the essential role they play in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(3) pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work and calls on governments abroad to thoroughly investigate and seek to resolve all cases while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(4) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(5) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(6) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to improve the means by which the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world; and

(B) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press year-round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—CONCERNING THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS SUPPORTING LONG-TERM PEACE, STABILITY, AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 144

Whereas, since the 1990s, an estimated 5,000,000 people have died due to repeated cycles of conflict, lack of governance, and atrocities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly those in North and South Kivu provinces, and, since the beginning of 2012, more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced;

Whereas the United Nations and humanitarian groups have reported staggering rates of sexual violence indicating tens of thousands of cases perpetrated by security forces of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and non-state armed groups, which continue to operate with nearly total impunity;

Whereas human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been subject to intimidation and attack;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo's wealth of natural resources, including minerals, have been a key driver of instability and violence;

Whereas the deeply flawed November 2011 presidential election in the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented significant political, economic, and social challenges, and provincial and local elections still have not been conducted despite plans to hold such elections in 2012;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains subject to recurring conflict despite one of the world's longest-running, largest, and most expensive international peacekeeping operations and extensive bilateral and multilateral efforts to address longstanding humanitarian crises, forge lasting peace, and pursue security sector reform and accountability;

Whereas members of civil society and political parties from both the majority and the opposition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo created the National Preparatory Committee (Comité National Préparatoire or CNP) to lay the groundwork for convening a national forum and dialogue with the goal of putting an end to the multifaceted crisis that afflicts the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas, on November 15, 2012, the United Nations Group of Experts provided compelling evidence that the crisis in eastern Congo had been fueled and exacerbated by regional actors, including through provision of significant military and logistical assistance and of operational and political support to the armed group known as the M23;

Whereas the United Nations and United States Government have imposed sanctions on the M23 and its leaders for human rights atrocities including rape, massacres, and the recruitment and physical and psychological torture of child soldiers;

Whereas, on March 18, 2013, International Criminal Court (ICC) indictee and leader of a faction of the M23 rebel group, Bosco Ntaganda, turned himself in to the United States Embassy in Kigali, asking to be transferred to the ICC in The Hague, where he voluntarily surrendered on March 22, 2013;

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army continues to perpetrate attacks against civilian populations in affected areas of northeastern Congo, creating widespread insecurity and displacement;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and 9 other countries on February 24, 2013, signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework that provides for a comprehensive approach to the ongoing conflict;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2098 on March 28, 2013, extending the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO) and authorizing the creation of an intervention brigade tasked with neutralizing armed groups; and

Whereas, on March 18, 2013, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appointed former President of Ireland and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, to serve as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's commitment and leadership to resolving the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and his appointment of Mary Robinson as United Nations Special Envoy to the Great Lakes;

(2) supports the commitments agreed to by the signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (in this resolution, the “Framework”), and encourages them to work closely with the United Nations, the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community, as guarantors of