

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

INTRODUCED BY HEINERT, CURTISS, VINCENT, JACKSON

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO INCLUDE A RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL FOR A STATE IN WHICH FEDERAL LAND PROPOSED FOR SALE IS LOCATED.

WHEREAS, the President's budget proposed the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for another 5 years and, to help fund this initiative, recommended selling a number of acres of National Forest System lands around the nation; and

WHEREAS, the western states contain vast tracts of federal land that have helped shape the economic and recreational cultures of those states; and

WHEREAS, public land management should not be subject to the whims of temporary budget cycles; and

WHEREAS, the western states have vast experience in managing the public lands that were granted to them through the Enabling Acts under which they were admitted to statehood; and

WHEREAS, the retention of public land creates economic opportunities, preserves the rich western tradition of outdoor activity, and enhances a clean and healthy environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That Congress include in any legislation considering the sale of federal land a right of first refusal AT THE APPRAISED VALUE for the state in which the federal land proposed for sale is located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the United States Congress and, specifically, to Montana's Congressional Delegation.

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