

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
6 TO EXPEDITE THE FEDERAL LAND USE DECISION PROCESSES IN MONTANA, TO RECOGNIZE THE
7 IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL MULTIPLE RESOURCE USES ON FEDERAL LANDS, NOT TO IMPOSE
8 RESTRICTIONS ON ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND OR MINERALS THAT WOULD PRECLUDE
9 DEVELOPMENT, AND TO SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION PLACING CHECKS AND BALANCES ON THE
10 PRESIDENT'S POWERS TO DECLARE NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

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12 WHEREAS, Montana is rich in natural resources and abundant agricultural land; and
13 WHEREAS, responsible use and development of those resources through oil and gas production, coal
14 and hard-rock mining, timber harvesting, farming, and ranching add to the well-being of Montana's rural
15 communities by providing jobs and educational benefits to Montana citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, federal lands comprise more than 30% of the State of Montana; and

17 WHEREAS, of the more than 31 million acres of federally owned oil and gas minerals in Montana, over
18 25% are restricted to prevent development of oil and gas minerals; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Montana receives 49% of the royalty revenue from the development of federal
20 minerals in addition to existing production and property taxes and one-quarter of the state's share remains in the
21 county where development occurs to support local government needs and local schools, while the remaining
22 share of federal revenues support programs across Montana, including the university system, offsetting the need
23 for higher taxes and tuition costs on its citizens; and

24 WHEREAS, the Montana agricultural industry represents a \$2.9 billion annual business, but the economic
25 value to local communities of livestock grazing on federal land is often a secondary consideration in the
26 development of federal land preservation plans for the West; and

27 WHEREAS, the nature of checkerboard ownership severely impacts adjacent private landowners when
28 federal minerals, grazing, and forest rights are restricted, and these impacts include negative effects on bonus
29 and royalty revenue, forest receipts, and grazing income along with the associated income, property tax revenue,
30 and the local jobs that are produced as a result of these activities and production; and

1 WHEREAS, it now requires 5 to 10 years to complete a federal resource management plan that has a
2 life expectancy of only 15 to 20 years; and

3 WHEREAS, protracted delays in updating management plans result in increased planning and
4 capital-carrying costs for producers making development opportunities on federal lands more costly and less
5 competitive; and

6 WHEREAS, new burdensome onshore leasing policies being implemented by the United States
7 Department of the Interior will remove significantly more federal lands from leasing, add more delay through
8 redundant land use analyses, excessive resource surveys, and increased costs to federal mineral development
9 while failing to improve land management.

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

13 That the State of Montana urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to:

14 (1) focus adequate federal resources on funding to complete environmental review processes for federal
15 land use decisions within improved timelines;

16 (2) review the new onshore leasing program to ensure that:

17 (a) there are no additional land withdrawals;

18 (b) further time delays will not occur; and

19 (c) mineral resource development of federal lands in Montana will remain competitive; and

20 (3) recognize that multiple uses such as forestry, livestock grazing, and mineral development on federal
21 lands are traditional, historic, and beneficial uses that must be protected on an equal footing and incorporated
22 into all federal land management planning.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that:

24 (1) no additional federal lands or minerals should be restricted from development beyond the current
25 25% of restricted federally owned minerals and that a review of the existing restricted acreage be undertaken to
26 assess whether those restrictions are still necessary; and

27 (2) the United States Congress support amendments to the American Antiquities Act of 1906, currently
28 pending in Congressional Committees, that prescribe checks and balances on the President's power to declare
29 national monuments.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President

1 of the United States, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the
2 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.
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