

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON, R. RIPLEY, BUTTREY, PRIEST, LEWIS, HINKLE, BROWN, JONES,
3 JACKSON, MOORE, VINCENT, STEINBEISSER, ZINKE, WALKER, TUTVEDT, MURPHY, ARTHUN,
4 DEBBY BARRETT, BRENDEN, HUTTON, WITTICH, ESSMANN, SONJU, KEANE, MCNUTT, COOK,
5 G. BENNETT, HARRIS, HOWARD, MCCHESENEY, REGIER, WASHBURN, READ, WAGNER, LONEY,
6 ROSENDALE, WELBORN, KLOCK, C. SMITH, BLASDEL, OSMUNDSON

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

15
16 WHEREAS, Montana is rich in natural resources and abundant agricultural land; and

17 WHEREAS, responsible use and development of those resources through oil and gas production, coal
18 and hard-rock mining, timber harvesting, farming, and ranching add to the well-being of Montana's rural
19 communities by providing jobs and educational benefits to Montana citizens; and

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

21 WHEREAS, of the more than 31 million acres of federally owned oil and gas minerals in Montana, over
22 25% are restricted to prevent development of oil and gas minerals; and

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

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

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, new burdensome onshore leasing policies being implemented by the United States
11 Department of the Interior will remove significantly more federal lands from leasing, add more delay through
12 redundant land use analyses, excessive resource surveys, and increased costs to federal mineral development
13 while failing to improve land management; AND

14 WHEREAS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SECRETARY KEN SALAZAR ISSUED SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 3310
15 IN DECEMBER 2010 AFFIRMING THAT PROTECTING WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS ON PUBLIC LANDS IS A HIGH PRIORITY
16 FOR THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, REQUIRING THE BUREAU TO MAINTAIN WILDERNESS RESOURCE INVENTORIES
17 ON A REGULAR AND CONTINUAL BASIS, AND WITHHOLDING USE PERMITS UNTIL LAND USE PLANNING AND PROJECT LEVEL
18 DECISIONS ARE MADE TO PROTECT WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INTO PERPETUITY, WHICH ESSENTIALLY CREATES
19 MORE WILDERNESS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

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

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

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

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

27 (a) there are no additional land withdrawals;

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

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

30 (3) recognize that multiple uses such as forestry, livestock grazing, and mineral development on federal

1 lands are traditional, historic, and beneficial uses that must be protected on an equal footing and incorporated
2 into all federal land management planning.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that:

4 (1) no additional federal lands or minerals should be restricted from development beyond the current
5 25% of restricted federally owned minerals and that a review of the existing restricted acreage be undertaken to
6 assess whether those restrictions are still necessary; ~~and~~

7 (2) the United States Congress SHOULD support amendments to the American Antiquities Act of 1906,
8 currently pending in Congressional Committees, that prescribe checks and balances on the President's power
9 to declare national monuments; AND

10 (3) THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS SHOULD NULLIFY SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 3310.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President
12 of the United States, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the
13 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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