

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 2—Committee on  
Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the United States Congress and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to take certain actions to reduce the impact of common ravens on the greater sage grouse and desert tortoise populations in this State.

WHEREAS, The greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a species of bird that inhabits much of the sagebrush habitat in Nevada as well as other western states; and

WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the greater sage grouse is warranted for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Through the enactment of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15, File Number 48, Statutes of Nevada 2005, at page 3022, the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature found that the listing of the greater sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species would have a devastatingly negative impact on Nevada's land development, land use, water use, mining, recreational activities and local economies; and

WHEREAS, The desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is a species of tortoise that inhabits the desert habitat of the southwestern United States, including the Mojave desert region of southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The desert tortoise is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, The common raven (*Corvus corax*) is a species of bird that inhabits Nevada and much of the western United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Asia; and

WHEREAS, The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates the global population of the common raven as greater than 16 million and trending upwards, thus classifying it as a species of least concern; and

WHEREAS, A known cause of decline in the sage grouse population is egg depredation by the common raven, and research conducted at Idaho State University has suggested that reductions in the raven population significantly increase sage grouse nest success; and

WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the common raven as the most highly visible predator of



hatchling and juvenile desert tortoises, and research published by the Western Ecological Research Center of the United States Geological Survey recommends controlling certain raven populations to assist in the recovery of desert tortoise populations; and

WHEREAS, The common raven is a protected species under regulations adopted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 et seq., which drastically curtails the ability of this State to manage the population of the common raven in order to protect sage grouse nests and desert tortoises; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under that Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to:

1. Work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to decrease common raven populations in this State; and
2. Adopt regulations allowing the State of Nevada to manage the common raven population and reduce the number of common ravens in this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the President of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, the Chair of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

