
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 2—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

PREFILED JANUARY 30, 2015

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges 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. (BDR R-33)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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.

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

4 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has
5 determined that the greater sage grouse is warranted for listing as
6 endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of
7 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.; and

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



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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The International Union for Conservation of Nature
11 estimates the global population of the common raven as greater than
12 16 million and trending upwards, thus classifying it as a species of
13 least concern; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has
20 identified the common raven as the most highly visible predator of
21 hatchling and juvenile desert tortoises, and research published by
22 the Western Ecological Research Center of the United States
23 Geological Survey recommends controlling certain raven
24 populations to assist in the recovery of desert tortoise populations;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The common raven is a protected species under
27 regulations adopted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of
28 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 et seq., which drastically curtails the ability
29 of this State to manage the population of the common raven in order
30 to protect sage grouse nests and desert tortoises; now, therefore, be
31 it

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

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

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



1 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
3 States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada
5 Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United States Fish and
6 Wildlife Service, the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's
7 Association, the President of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation,
8 the Chair of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the Executive
9 Director of the Western Governors' Association; and be it further
10 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
11 passage.

