

United States Senate

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I write to respectfully request your assistance in securing a legislative hearing for the *Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act* (S.1195). This proposal reflects years of collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to allow responsible growth in Pershing County, Nevada, protect public lands, increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities, and support Tribal communities. My bill will also expand economic development while increasing conservation across the region.

As you know, the Pacific Railway Act of 1862 created a right-of-way checkerboard land pattern of alternating public land and privately owned land extending 20 miles on both sides of the railroad tracks that cut across Pershing County. The *Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act* resolves the checkerboard issue, allowing for more effective land management and the creation of new economic development, energy production, outdoor recreation, and conservation opportunities. In addition to improving checkerboard land management, the bill designates approximately 136,072 acres of federal land as Wilderness to allow for more specific management of our public lands based on their current characteristics and resolves nearly 48,600 acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The legislation will also transfer approximately 10 acres of land into trust for the Lovelock Paiute Tribe for the expansion of their cemetery.

In February 2025, the Pershing County Board of Commissioners submitted a letter in support of efforts by the Nevada congressional delegation to advance federal legislation to address sustainable growth in the area and ensure the county is set up for a “much brighter future.” Specifically, they support taking steps to resolve the checkerboard ownership, facilitating the sale of land with mining activities, and protecting wilderness areas around Pershing County. The Pershing County Board of Commissioners also notes the broad coalition of “hunters, hikers, four wheelers, ranchers, environmentalists, miners, prospectors, educators, business owners, and many other citizens” who support efforts to resolve these critical issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please reach out to McKenna LeVitt (mckenna_levitt@rosen.senate.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Rosen", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" being more prominent than the last name "Rosen".

Senator Jacky Rosen