

Resolution No. 08.R.04

**Title: Policy of the County Commission regarding any comprehensive land bill involving Esmeralda County, Nevada**

Whereas; 97% of the area of Esmeralda County consists of Federally Managed Lands.

Whereas; The county has areas where inadvertent trespass has occurred or ownership of the land is in dispute; specifically the town of Gold Point, Nevada.

Whereas; Economic growth has been suffocated by the lack of private land, on-going, ever changing withdrawal proposals for federal projects, and it's taxpayers subjected to providing services on Federally Managed Lands without receiving just compensation.

Whereas; The citizens of Esmeralda County have an intimate relationship with the land. They treat it with respect, earn their living from it by ranching, mining, and farming, and enjoy the pleasures of freedom to recreate on it along with a host of visitors.

Whereas; Within Esmeralda County exists an extensive system of roads, trails, and right of ways. Some dating as far back as the time of the Indians, and Spaniards long before there was a Bureau of Land Management. Esmeralda County owns and maintains in excess of 1500 miles of road. This system, the access it provides between communities and to public land is dear to the heart the people of Esmeralda County.

Whereas; The relationship between the Department of the Interior and Esmeralda County is pretty good today but this has not always been the case. In the past the BLM has obliterated/blocked our roads, let mining companies leave open workings and junk all over. Wild horse herd over population has been allowed and our citizens have to request gathers. The citizens of Esmeralda County believe they would be better guardians of the public land than the official stewards because of first hand knowledge and personal impact involved.

Whereas; Esmeralda County is highly mineralized not only with precious metals but also with minerals having strategic value to the defense of the United States. Many areas in the county including the current Wilderness Study Areas have never been thoroughly investigated for mineral potential due to rough terrain.

Whereas; Several land bills for Nevada Counties have become law and the people of Esmeralda have observed the process and results. From this experience we realize the importance to express our views from the start

Whereas; Senator Reid and his staff have offered to sponsor a land bill for Esmeralda County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Any comprehensive land bill involving Esmeralda County must from beginning to end remain under the control of local citizens and government. That Esmeralda County will not agree to sell, barter, or otherwise give

up right to the water, or other resource in the county needed for current and future use by its' citizens. That all existing accesses, roads, trails, right of ways should be addressed and guaranteed to remain open. That Federally managed lands should be classed as Multiple Use, accessible to the public, open for mining, energy development, and be adaptively managed to the benefit of the environment, economy, security, and use of the citizens of Esmeralda County and the United States of America. That management of all lands will involve our citizens and local government in any and all actions.

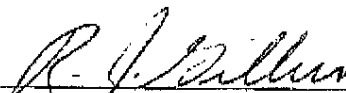
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Esmeralda County joins with its sister Counties to oppose any further wilderness or roadless area to be designated without their express approval;

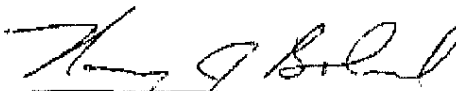
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners requests the State of Nevada by and through its elected Officials and Officers, including but not limited to Governor Jim Gibbons, Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada State Senators and Assembly persons, U.S. Senator Harry Reid, U.S. Senator John Ensign, U.S. Congressman Dean Heller, U.S. Congresswoman Shelly Berkeley, and U.S. Congressman John Porter to assist Esmeralda County in opposing any wilderness areas to be designated in Esmeralda County without the specific approval of it's citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the United States and the members of Esmeralda County's congressional delegation.

Adopted this 1st day of April 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Kirby, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. J. Gillum, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Boland, Member

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board