

REFERENCE TITLE: federal lands; natural resources; permission

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HCM 2006

Introduced by
Representative Griffin

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL, STATE AND COUNTY APPROVAL TO ALTER ARIZONA FEDERAL LAND AND TO PROTECT ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCE RIGHTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, Arizona's great strength lies in the value of its public
4 lands and the public's ability to access and use those lands for a variety
5 of recreational uses; and

6 Whereas, nearly 50% of all land in Arizona is already under federal
7 management, and the majority of Arizona's lands are restricted from public
8 access and recreation; and

9 Whereas, Arizona currently has 18 monument designations, the most of
10 any state, and there are more than 285 million acres of land and marine
11 areas in monument status; and

12 Whereas, these monument designations have negatively impacted the
13 state's ability to promote access to public recreation and to develop and
14 maintain critical water resources, manage wildlife, restore habitat and
15 perform wildlife translocations; and

16 Whereas, the federal government is unable to financially support and
17 maintain the existing national parks and monuments and often ends up
18 closing or restricting the use of these lands; and

19 Whereas, the designation of national monuments and subsequent
20 closure or restricted use of public lands significantly interferes with
21 Arizona's economic well-being; and

22 Whereas, the designation of monuments and conservation areas
23 interferes with Arizona's ability to mitigate the risk of wildfire by
24 thinning overly dense forests and adversely affects grazing practices,
25 water conservation and proper soil erosion controls and practices; and

26 Whereas, designating an area as a national monument or other special
27 use designation adds additional land use restrictions, prevents the
28 multiple use of this land and curbs the use of the land's abundant natural
29 resources; and

30 Whereas, the greatest threat to the lands of Arizona is the
31 intrusion and overreach of the federal government.

32 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
33 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

34 1. That the United States Congress enact legislation to protect
35 local economies and to preserve local customs, cultures and historical
36 uses by prohibiting the federal government from establishing, authorizing
37 or declaring any new national monument, national park, wildlife refuge,
38 conservation area, area of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic
39 river, wilderness, wilderness characteristic area or any other federal
40 reservation or special use designation within Arizona's border and from
41 withdrawing or reserving any additional federal mineral, land, water or
42 other national resource rights within Arizona's border, unless with:

43 (a) The express authorization of Congress.

1 (b) The express authorization of the Arizona State Legislature,
2 while in session.

3 (c) The express authorization of the members of the county board of
4 supervisors in all the counties that would be impacted by the designation,
5 withdrawal or reservation.

6 2. That a comprehensive economic impact study be completed that
7 analyzes the cumulative, tangible and measurable impacts to the national,
8 state and local economies by the removal of the additional land, water or
9 natural resources from economic production and that demonstrates the
10 removal of these lands, water or natural resources represents the least
11 burdensome and costly method to achieve the desired cultural, historical
12 or environmental protections. The economic impact statement should
13 include an analysis of the impacts to the state and local tax base,
14 including property, income and sales tax.

15 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
16 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the
17 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
18 House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of
19 Arizona.