

1 **NYE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20**

2 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SEGREGATION OF PUBLIC LANDS IN RAILROAD VALLEY,  
3 NYE COUNTY, BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

4 WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 mandates a policy of multiple  
5 use of public land and establishes guidelines for use of land withdrawal; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) made application to the  
7 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 29, 2021 to study the potential effects of a Congressional  
8 land withdrawal of 23,000 acres in Railroad Valley from public use for 20 years; and

9 WHEREAS, the stated purpose is for NASA to calibrate satellite activities with ground-based light  
10 reflection studies of land surfaces for climate change research; and

11 WHEREAS, there may be alternative sites for NASA to conduct surface-based reflection studies,  
12 and several of which have already been withdrawn from public use and may be available to NASA; and

13 WHEREAS, segregation and withdrawal of 36 square miles would affect additional development  
14 on eight existing active operating oil leases on or near Bacon Flat and would interfere with the Butterfield  
15 Marsh Mining District, including ten active mining claims for various non-metallic resources; and

16 WHEREAS, lithium is a strategic mineral vital to the United States and its extraction has been a  
17 national priority since 2017; and

18 WHEREAS, at least five-hundred and fifty-seven lithium mining claims for lithium extraction  
19 have been staked in Southern Railroad Valley; and

20 WHEREAS, this land withdrawal would jeopardize the potential future development of  
21 lithium, oil, and other natural resources in Nye County; and

22 WHEREAS, multiple land withdrawals and expansion on these historic withdrawals have been  
23 previously authorized by Congress in Nye County and the impact of these lost economic opportunities is  
24 increased with NASA's proposal; and  
25




1 WHEREAS, the current and future development and expansion of natural resources extraction  
2 provides economic benefits to Nye County that would be severely limited and could be eliminated by the  
3 proposed land withdrawal; and

4 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners strongly  
5 opposes the segregation and future withdrawal of lands in Railroad Valley by NASA; and urges the BLM  
6 to seek multiple use guidelines established under the 1973 Land Policy Act; and further urges NASA to  
7 investigate alternative sites that will not interfere with the current and future development of mineral and  
8 energy resources in Railroad Valley.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners orders this resolution to  
10 be forwarded in its entirety to the BLM and the NASA.

11 APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021

12 AYES:

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14   
15 *Henna C. Cox*  
16   
17 *Frank C.*

NAYS:

13 *φ*  
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15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 \_\_\_\_\_

19 Absent:

20 *φ*  
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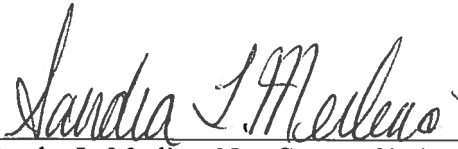
Abstention:

20 *φ*  
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22 NYE COUNTY OF  
23 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

24   
25 Debra Strickland, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Sandra L. Merlino, Nye County Clerk  
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board