

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0006

Sage grouse.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks and Representative(s) Brown

A BILL

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to recognize and
 2 encourage state primacy in sage grouse management by
 3 granting an extension of time to allow development and
 4 implementation of state sage grouse conservation plans.

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6 WHEREAS, Wyoming is committed to the conservation of
 7 greater sage grouse (*centrocercus urophasianus*) and its
 8 present habitat located within Wyoming; and

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10 WHEREAS, Wyoming has produced and implemented a statewide
 11 sage grouse conservation plan that provides both a
 12 regulatory framework and financial support of this
 13 commitment to sage grouse; and

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15 WHEREAS, the game and fish commission of Wyoming and other
 16 state agencies possess significant expertise in the

1 management of greater sage grouse and its habitat and whose
2 experts work in full cooperation with the federal agencies
3 managing federal lands within the state; and

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5 WHEREAS, implementation of the state's sage grouse
6 conservation plan has produced scientific, peer reviewed
7 research related to the ecology of the habitat and biology
8 of the species, the adequacy of existing regulatory
9 mechanisms, and natural and anthropogenic factors affecting
10 species existence, all of which must be considered by the
11 United States fish and wildlife service in making a
12 determination whether to list greater sage grouse as
13 threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act
14 of 1973; and

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16 WHEREAS, categorical exclusions from the National
17 Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic
18 Preservation Act are necessary to allow the federal
19 agencies managing federal lands within the state to remove
20 coniferous trees that are detrimental to greater sage
21 grouse habitat; and

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1 WHEREAS, Wyoming wishes to continue its collaboration with
2 other states that contain current habitat for greater sage
3 grouse; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Congress and the President are to be commended
6 for recognizing the unprecedented collaboration among the
7 various states regarding greater sage grouse conservation
8 and the need to continue on the ground conservation and
9 monitoring activities as recognized through the enactment
10 of Division F, Title I, Section 122 of the Consolidated and
11 Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015; and

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13 WHEREAS, time is needed to allow the regulatory framework
14 and the conservation measures in the state plan to be
15 implemented over a period of multiple, consecutive sage
16 grouse life cycles to determine the efficacy of the plan
17 and the need for adaptive management, if any.

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19 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
20 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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22 **Section 1.** In order to ensure implementation of state
23 sage grouse conservation plans and full consideration of

1 the efficacy of those plans Congress should provide an
2 extension of time for a period of ten (10) years through
3 and including fiscal year 2025 before the United States
4 secretary of the interior can consider, write or issue
5 pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
6 a finding or proposed federal endangered species
7 regulation.

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9 **Section 2.** That during this period, Wyoming will
10 implement its sage grouse conservation plan, thereby
11 establishing and enhancing its efficacy over time.

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13 **Section 3.** That during this period, Wyoming will
14 provide information to the United States secretary of the
15 interior about the conservation status of greater sage
16 grouse in Wyoming and implementation of its sage grouse
17 conservation plan, to facilitate an annual report to
18 Congress on the status of greater sage grouse.

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20 **Section 4.** That Congress should by legislation
21 recognize and encourage state primacy in the long term
22 management of sage grouse and its habitat to ensure an
23 effective and balanced approach that seeks to recover and

1 protect sage grouse populations while protecting state
2 economic interests, educational funding from state lands
3 and valid existing rights including private property
4 rights.

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6 **Section 5.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
7 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
8 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
10 States Congress, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation
11 and to the president of the senate and the speaker of the
12 house in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada,
13 North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Washington.

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(END)