

Nevada Republican Party

Resolution to insure that the I-11 Corridor Follows the Designated Route of Us 95 and not bypass Mineral County

WHEREAS The Nevada Department of Transportation Board in September 2014 voted to designate US 95 as the route of the proposed I-11 Corridor as the route from Phoenix AZ to I-80.

WHEREAS The 114th Congress in December 2015 passed the Fast Act (Fixing Americas Surface Transportation) designating as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System, as part of the Interstate Route I-11, the Intermountain West Corridor from the vicinity of Las Vegas, Nevada, extending north along U.S. Route 95, terminating at Interstate Route 80. Included in the corridor designation is room for a rail line and high voltage power lines.

WHEREAS There is a proposal and map deviating from the U.S. 95 Corridor bypassing Mineral County by turning North and continuing through undeveloped land with limited or no infrastructure terminating at I-80. This proposal has little to do with interstate goals but is based upon speculation of a Federal lands bill.

WHEREAS The original Federal Highway Act of 1956 was known as the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. Bypassing the existing Military base in Mineral County over speculation on a lands bill will isolate a very important asset of our country and will devastate an existing economy and tax base in Nevada.

WHEREAS Mineral County is on the U.S.95 Corridor and is home to the Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD). HWAD encompasses 147,000 acres of Nevada desert and mountain ranges and is thought to be the largest facility of its kind in the world.

WHEREAS The Nevada Republican Rural Caucus discussed the need for Inland Intermodal Freight Hubs and regional break-bulk terminals.

WHEREAS Mineral County has existing rail service and remaining existing dedicated railroad bed extending to Tonopah. Mineral County has existing geothermal and solar installations with the capacity to greatly expand the renewal energy opportunity with the addition of transmission lines in the corridor.

WHEREAS The HWAD facility and Mineral County has significant infrastructure including 219 miles of railroad access, an airport capable of landing a C-130 Cargo plane. HWAD has on site fire/ emergency rapid response department and 24 hr security... HWAD is the only facility of its kind west of Independence Missouri that is part of the U.S Army's Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) program making significant buildings and ground available for private enterprise. Recently another 18 thousand acres were added from the Depot property as Hawthorne Technology & Industry Park available for private enterprise lease.

WHEREAS Hawthorne is centrally located, 265 miles from Sacramento, 395 miles from Los Angeles, 515 miles from Salt Lake City, 600 miles from Phoenix Arizona, 130 miles from Reno, and 300 miles from Las Vegas and is strategically located to provide excellent highway access to surrounding States and the West Coast region.

WHEREAS Expanding I-11 is estimated to contribute \$24 billion in economic impact, create 240,000 jobs and provide up to \$39 billion in travel benefits. Hawthorne and Mineral County has the resources both natural and man made to support the original mission of the Interstate system and goals of the Interstate Intermodal corridor as opposed to building infrastructure on undeveloped lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nevada Republican Party encourage all Nevada legislators, Federal and State, and appointed officials to pursue the original intent of the I-11 corridor and not bypass Mineral County and its current and future contribution to the State of Nevada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nevada Republican Party directs the Secretary to distribute this resolution to the Republican members of the Legislature, Republican members of the federal delegation and appointed State officials.