



Sen. Jim DeMint charges Democrats with ‘federal land grab’

By Agri-Pulse Staff

© Copyright Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

Washington, Feb. 26 – Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) charged Friday that Democrats are pursuing “a big government land-grab that appeases liberal environmental lobbyists at the expense of American jobs, energy resources, and economic development.”

DeMint’s charge followed a 58-38 Senate vote against an amendment he sponsored that would have stopped the Obama administration from giving National Monument status to some 10 million acres in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. DeMint warns that the designation by the Interior Department “would immediately halt use of the lands for mining, forestry, ranching activities, and energy development which would negatively affect employment and local tax bases.”

DeMint says that “Without this amendment, the President will be able to lock up millions of acres with the stroke of a pen, instead of working with the states and towns that will be most affected. Jobs in these areas provide taxes that are essential to funding local schools, fire houses and community centers. The Democrat majority could have stood up for Americans and saved jobs today, but instead they chose to placate liberal activists. This out-of-control federal government should stop from taking freedom away one acre at a time.”

The 14 new National Monuments under consideration by the Interior Department are the Northwest Sonoran Desert, Arizona; the Berryessa Snow Mountains, California; the Bodie Hills, California; the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, California; the Modoc Plateau, California; the Vermillion Basin, Colorado; the Northern Montana Prairie, Montana; the Heart of the Great Basin, Nevada; the Lesser Prairie Chicken Preserve, New Mexico; the Otero Mesa, New Mexico; the Owyhee Desert, Oregon and Nevada; the Cedar Mesa region, Utah; the San Rafael Swell, Utah; and the San Juan Islands, Washington.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Ranking Member of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, shares DeMint’s concerns about administration plans to make new National Monument designations. Following the example set by Wyoming back in 1950, Murkowski plans to introduce legislation next week “To prohibit the further extension or

establishment of national monuments in the State of Alaska except by express authorization of Congress.”

For other *Agri-Pulse* news stories, go to: www.agri-pulse.com.

#30