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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—SENATOR HORSFORD

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

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JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK

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Referred to Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation

**SUMMARY**—Urges the Federal Aviation Administration and the Clark County Department of Aviation to convene a stakeholders’ group to develop and make recommendations to improve flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft. (BDR R-803)

**FISCAL NOTE:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**—Urging the Federal Aviation Administration and the Clark County Department of Aviation to convene a stakeholders’ group to develop and make recommendations to improve flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Federal law provides that the United States Government has exclusive  
2 sovereignty of airspace of the United States and requires the Administrator of the  
3 Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations on the flight of aircraft to  
4 prevent collisions between aircraft and to protect persons and property on the  
5 ground. (49 U.S.C. § 40103) This resolution urges the Federal Aviation  
6 Administration to work closely with the Clark County Department of Aviation to  
7 convene a stakeholders’ group to develop and make recommendations to improve  
8 flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly with respect to  
9 experimental homebuilt aircraft.



1 WHEREAS, The expansion of urban areas in Clark County  
2 increasingly places homes and neighborhoods directly in the flight  
3 paths of aircraft flying to and from the North Las Vegas Airport;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Flights of experimental homebuilt aircraft to and  
6 from the North Las Vegas Airport are increasingly common; and

7 WHEREAS, Experimental homebuilt aircraft have higher  
8 accident rates than other types of aircraft and accounted for more  
9 than 12 percent of airplane accidents nationwide in 2007; and

10 WHEREAS, Experimental homebuilt aircraft have been involved  
11 in nine accidents at airports within the Clark County airport system  
12 since 2003, three of which were at the North Las Vegas Airport; and

13 WHEREAS, A crash involving an experimental homebuilt aircraft  
14 flying from the North Las Vegas Airport resulted in the deaths of  
15 two persons on the ground in 2008; and

16 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration sets standards  
17 for the number of hours experimental homebuilt aircraft must be  
18 tested before such aircraft can be operated at airports such as the  
19 North Las Vegas Airport; and

20 WHEREAS, Some of the experimental homebuilt aircraft  
21 operated at the North Las Vegas Airport may have been operated  
22 without having met those national standards; and

23 WHEREAS, The safety of persons who live near the North Las  
24 Vegas Airport is of the highest concern to the people of this State;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The Clark County Department of Aviation cannot  
27 regulate the flights of experimental homebuilt aircraft to and from  
28 the North Las Vegas Airport because federal law provides the  
29 United States Government with exclusive sovereignty of airspace in  
30 the United States; now, therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
32 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature expresses serious  
33 concerns regarding the current flight safety practices at the North  
34 Las Vegas Airport; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Federal  
36 Aviation Administration to work closely with the Clark County  
37 Department of Aviation and the entire aviation community in Clark  
38 County to convene not later than June 1, 2009, a stakeholders'  
39 group, which must include, without limitation:

- 40 1. A representative from the Federal Aviation Administration;
- 41 2. A representative of the Clark County Department of  
42 Aviation;
- 43 3. A representative of the Clark County Aviation Association;
- 44 4. A representative of the City of North Las Vegas;



1 5. A representative of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots  
2 Association;

3 6. Residents of neighborhoods surrounding the North Las  
4 Vegas Airport; and

5 7. Tenants of the North Las Vegas Airport; and be it further  
6 RESOLVED, That the stakeholders' group shall, on or before  
7 August 1, 2009, issue its preliminary analysis of the concerns  
8 regarding the current flight safety practices at the North Las Vegas  
9 Airport; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the stakeholders' group shall, on or before  
11 November 1, 2009, develop and make recommendations to improve  
12 flight safety standards at the North Las Vegas Airport, particularly  
13 with respect to experimental homebuilt aircraft, for submission to  
14 the appropriate entities for consideration and to the Legislative  
15 Commission; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Nevada  
17 Congressional Delegation to use its best efforts to encourage the  
18 Federal Aviation Administration to participate in this endeavor; and  
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
21 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal  
22 Aviation Administration, the Board of County Commissioners of  
23 Clark County, the Director of the Clark County Department of  
24 Aviation, the North Las Vegas City Council and each member of the  
25 Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
27 passage.



