

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “La Paz County Solar
5 Energy and Job Creation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means La
9 Paz County, Arizona.

1 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
2 means the approximately 3,400 acres of land man-
3 aged by the Bureau of Land Management and des-
4 igned as “Federal Land To Be Conveyed” on the
5 map.

6 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
7 titled “BLM Arizona—La Paz County Land Con-
8 veyance Map, Bureau of Land Management—Colo-
9 rado River District, Yuma Field Office” and dated
10 June 29, 2023.

11 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the planning re-
15 quirement of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land
16 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712,
17 1713) and in accordance with this section and other appli-
18 cable law, as soon as practicable after receiving a request
19 from the County to convey the Federal land, the Secretary
20 shall convey the Federal land to the County.

21 (b) RESTRICTIONS ON CONVEYANCE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under sub-
23 section (a) shall be subject to—

24 (A) valid existing rights; and

1 (B) such terms and conditions as the Sec-
2 retary determines to be necessary.

3 (2) EXCLUSION.—The Secretary shall exclude
4 from the conveyance under subsection (a) any Fed-
5 eral land that contains significant cultural, environ-
6 mental, wildlife, or recreational resources.

7 (c) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The con-
8 veyance under subsection (a) shall be for the fair market
9 value of the Federal land to be conveyed, as determined—

10 (1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy
11 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et
12 seq.); and

13 (2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in
14 accordance with—

15 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
16 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

17 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
18 Appraisal Practice.

19 (d) PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ARTI-
20 FACTS.—As a condition of the conveyance under sub-
21 section (a), the County shall, and as a condition of any
22 subsequent conveyance, any subsequent owner shall—

23 (1) make good faith efforts to avoid disturbing
24 Tribal artifacts;

1 (2) minimize impacts on Tribal artifacts if the
2 artifacts are disturbed;

3 (3) coordinate with the Colorado River Indian
4 Tribes Tribal Historic Preservation Office to identify
5 artifacts of cultural and historic significance; and

6 (4) allow Tribal representatives to rebury un-
7 earthed artifacts at or near where the artifacts were
8 discovered.

9 (e) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The map shall be on file and
11 available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
12 fices of the Bureau of Land Management.

13 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the
14 County may, by mutual agreement—

15 (A) make minor boundary adjustments to
16 the Federal land to be conveyed under sub-
17 section (a); and

18 (B) correct any minor errors in the map,
19 an acreage estimate, or the description of the
20 Federal land.

21 (f) WITHDRAWAL.—The Federal land is withdrawn
22 from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws
23 of the United States.

24 (g) COSTS.—As a condition of the conveyance of the
25 Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall pay—

1 (1) an amount equal to the appraised value de-
2 termined in accordance with subsection (c)(2); and

3 (2) all costs related to the conveyance, including
4 all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative
5 costs associated with the conveyance of the Federal
6 land to the County under subsection (a).

7 (h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The pro-
8 ceeds from the sale of land under this section shall be—

9 (1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Ac-
10 count established by section 206(a) of the Federal
11 Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C.
12 2305(a)); and

13 (2) used in accordance with that Act (43 U.S.C.
14 2301 et seq.).