

STATEMENT OF
CONGRESSMAN JON C. PORTER (R-NV-3)

Before the
House Resources Subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health

Concerning
H.R. 4382, Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act

March 9, 2006

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I thank you for granting me time today to testify on H.R. 4382, the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act. I would also like to thank the Nevada National Guard and Clark County, Nevada for their strong support of this legislation.

The Nevada Army National Guard is an impressive group of soldiers whose work contributes to the United States military's overall mission of defending our homeland. More specifically, the Nevada National Guard maintains a three part mission geared to the federal, the state and the community. The underlying focus of each individual mission is for the safety, protection and well-being of the American people.

Under the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2005, over \$12.8 million was secured to construct a new Nevada National Guard Readiness Center in Southern Nevada. Additionally, during their 2005 legislative work period, the Nevada State Legislature approved matching funds and has appropriated over \$27 million for the construction of and projects associated with the Readiness Center. This new center will reside between the Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada areas.

The State of Nevada is firmly committed to ensuring that we do our part to defend our homeland and that our guard is prepared to respond to any national security threats facing our State. The Southern Nevada Readiness Center is an essential link to helping the State meet its commitment to train guardsmen to respond to chemical, biological and other terrorist threats against Nevada and our nation.

Therefore, the purpose of H.R. 4382 is to convey 35-50 acres of land from the McCarran Airport Cooperative Management Area (CMA) Boundary to the Nevada National Guard for the purpose of building the Nevada National Guard Readiness Center.

Originally, this land was given to Clark County for airport use as authorized under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act or SNPLMA. Under restrictions in SNPLMA, Clark County would be required to contribute eighty-five percent (85%) of the gross proceeds from any sale of land that was originally given to them. Clark County is seeking to convey the land to the Nevada National Guard and does not wish to sell the land. Therefore, H.R. 4382, the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act would permit Clark County to convey between 35-50 acres of land to the Nevada National Guard at no cost.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and appreciate any questions you may have.
