

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1657

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

MAY 17, 2023

Ms. SINEMA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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 4,800 acres of land man-
3 aged by the Bureau of Land Management and des-
4 ignated as “Federal Land To Be Conveyed” on the
5 map.

6 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map
7 prepared by the Bureau of Land Management enti-
8 tled “La Paz County Land Conveyance Map” and
9 dated September 1, 2020.

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

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

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

20 (b) RESTRICTIONS ON CONVEYANCE.—

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

23 (A) valid existing rights; and

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

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

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

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

11 (2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in
12 accordance with—

13 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
14 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

15 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
16 Appraisal Practice.

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

21 (1) make good faith efforts to avoid disturbing
22 Tribal artifacts;

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

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

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

7 (e) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (2) used in accordance with that Act (43 U.S.C.
12 2301 et seq.).

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