

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Memorializes the 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will mandate that all food production and service companies operating in Nevada be required to register for a food recovery program and that all businesses (public, private, and governmental) operating in Nevada be required to register for a recycling program. All recovered food would then be donated to the nearest shelter or, if inedible, used to make compost that would be used by the local farmers.

WHEREAS, The United States' tourism industries accumulate on average six thousand tons of food waste per a day, and the majority of its recyclable materials are disposed of irresponsibly, and

WHEREAS, Nevada is a large contributor to food waste and lacks participation in recycling programs due to its tourism-based economy, and

WHEREAS, Food waste and recyclables that are not recovered are sent to landfills, which releases methane gas into the air; and

WHEREAS, Methane gas emissions are twenty times more harmful than carbon dioxide emissions and harm the environment because they are extremely flammable, displace oxygen in enclosed spaces, and are powerful contributors to global warming; and

WHEREAS, Nevada currently has the highest rate of foreclosures and an unemployment rate of 14.9 percent, which leaves Nevada at a higher risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, There are currently twenty-nine homeless shelters in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's soil is not ideal for planting, but addition of compost to the soil increases its nutrition value which leads to better planting or growing results; and

WHEREAS, Improving Nevada's local farms puts more money into the economy; and

WHEREAS, The cost of wasting food is an average \$600 per household per year, and landfills cost the United States \$13.8 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, Every animal living in the habitat suffers from waste being dumped into natural water sources and polluting the land in which they live; and

WHEREAS, Valuable land mass that is used as a dump site cannot be built upon for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, Waste disturbs natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Many non-renewable resources that require valuable energy, time and money to produce are recyclable; and

WHEREAS, A tree takes 15 to 20 years to grow, 10 minutes to be destroyed; and only 1 hour to be completely consumed by the public; and

WHEREAS, More time and energy is put into making virgin paper than recycling it; and

WHEREAS, Recycling 14 trees worth of paper reduces air pollutants by 165,142 tons; and

WHEREAS; Milwaukee saved \$2 million in power each year after mandating the food recovery program; and

WHEREAS, Boston's Deer Island Treatment Plant has saved over \$15 million; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE NEVADA GIRLS STATE, assembled in Carson City on July 1, 2011 that the 2013 session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to mandate that all food production and service companies operating in Nevada be required to register for a food recovery program and that all businesses (public, private, and governmental) operating in Nevada be required to register for a recycling program. All recovered food would then be donated to the nearest shelter, or if inedible, used to make compost, which will be used by the local farmers.