



# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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## **PRA OPPOSES ANY EFFORT TO PASS AN OMNIBUS PUBLIC LANDS BILL**

It has been widely reported that Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Democratic leaders are waging an effort to push through omnibus legislation that would contain 100 plus land and water bills. The Property Rights Alliance strongly opposes any attempt, such as this, to pass legislation that restricts property rights and increases government control and regulation of American property owners.

Over the past several decades, there has been a proliferation of programs dedicated to the preservation of land that has extended the grasp of the federal government and its influence over local land use and private property rights. From wilderness areas to heritage areas to wild and scenic rivers, a public lands omnibus bill advances a centralized command-and-control vision of American lands. The federal government already owns over 650 million acres of land, much of which is experiencing severe maintenance backlogs or has already gone into disarray. PRA is concerned an omnibus bill would lock millions of additional acres of land into government regulation, preventing American citizens from exercising their right of property ownership.

By restricting access to land for energy exploration, many of the bills that would be part of an omnibus package would limit the potential of the economy and directly interfere with America's entrepreneurial drive. Through the creation of unnecessary new "conservation" programs, millions of additional acres of land would be managed by a vast government bureaucracy and its additional levels of "red tape." A public lands omnibus would ultimately force the American taxpayer to fund the purchase of land that could have otherwise been utilized in the private sector.

As a matter of principle, property rights should be protected by recognizing the right of citizens to utilize and prosper from the land in this country. Legislation should never arbitrarily attempt to seize land from the public and restrict its use, as the omnibus package would. PRA urges you to stand up and reject Senator Reid's effort to force this land grab down taxpayers' throats.