

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY #15



Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.)

U.S. Senate (2011-Present)

Sponsored Bills: 3; Cosponsored Bills: 6;

Total Possible Bills: 48

Dean Heller has been a Nevada senator since 2011. While he has held the office, he has sponsored or cosponsored nine out of 48 anti-public lands bills, earning him a spot as Public Lands Enemy #15. Heller believes that Congress should give federal lands to the state and local governments and has said, “I have been working in Congress for years on bills that free up public land for development, recreation, and other purposes.”⁴⁰

Heller seems to have a particular dislike of national monuments having introduced three bills ([S. 472](#), [S. 1554](#), and [S. 232](#)) to strip the authority of the president to establish new monuments in Nevada. S. 232 would also nullify a Secretarial Order for the Bureau of Land Management to monitor and protect public land with wilderness values in the state.

Heller has spoken out against national monuments with more than just his legislation. In 2015 he called Obama’s designation of Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada “a disgrace”⁴¹ and has also urged the president [against protecting](#) the Gold Butte and Owyhee Canyonlands landscapes as monuments.⁴²

During the now infamous cattle roundup that triggered the 2014 Bunkerville standoff between federal authorities and the armed supporters of Cliven Bundy, Heller referred to the anti-federal militant Bundys as patriots.⁴³ He later backpedaled on his use of the label.

During his political career, the lawmaker has received at least [\\$1,004,613](#) in campaign contributions from the energy and natural resources sector¹ — his #4 supporter.

⁴⁰ <http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/energy>

⁴¹ <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/heller-obama-creation-nevada-monument-disgrace>

⁴² <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/clark-county/sen-dean-heller-urges-obama-against-last-minute-monument>

⁴³ <http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/dean-heller-has-second-thoughts-bundy>

Anti-Public Lands Bills Sponsored or Cosponsored by Heller:

Bill Type	Sponsored	Cosponsored
Private/County/State Control of Public Lands Weakens RS 2477 Rules (S. 3334)		X
Weakening Federal Protections Remove Wilderness Management (S. 1087) Logging Priority on Forests (S. 1966) Weakens Grazing Management (S. 258) Weakens Grazing Management (S. 1129)		X X X X
No More Parks, Monuments, Refuges No New Monuments in Nevada (S. 472) No New Monuments in Nevada (S. 1554) No New Monuments in Nevada (S. 232) No New Monuments (S. 228)	X X X	X

Campaign Contributors ([2016 Election](#), as of December 2016, source: Center for Responsive Politics):

- Mining Industry:
 - \$296,600
- Oil & Gas Industry:
 - \$269,450
- Energy & Natural Resources Sector:
 - \$846,200
- Major Funders (in Heller’s Top 100 Contributors, 2016 Election):
 - **Energy:** NV Energy (\$46,388), Southwest Gas (\$37,250)
 - **Coal:** Alliance Resource Partners (\$37,000), Murray Energy (\$36,278)
 - **Mining:** Barrick Gold Corp. (\$35,250), Newmont Mining (\$22,250)
 - **Conglomerates:** Berkshire Hathaway (\$34,900), Honeywell International (\$34,000), General Electric (\$31,500), Koch Industries (\$20,500)
 - **Oil and Gas:** Mewbourne Oil Co. (\$25,000)

League of Conservation Voters National Environmental Scorecard:

[Lifetime](#): 11 percent