



# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER FIGHTING FOR NEVADA'S WORKERS



*We all know our state is facing tough times; a national recession has affected nearly every aspect of our local economy. That is why, as Nevada's Senior Senator, Senator Reid is working every day to create jobs for our state's hard working men and women and put Nevada's economy back on track. While the road traveled and the road ahead is filled with challenges, Nevada is making progress. Senator Reid will continue building upon his efforts to create new jobs in renewable energy, federal and state building projects, and highway construction; all the while protecting and growing opportunities for tourism and gaming.*

**Senator Reid Spearheaded the Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Which Has Created or Saved Over 29,000 Thousand Jobs.** In addition to creating thousands of jobs in Nevada, the Recovery Act provided for Davis-Bacon wage protections that guarantee all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on Recovery Act projects be paid competitive wages. It also included the Build America Bonds Program that helps states and local governments pursue much-needed projects, such as work on public buildings, courthouses, schools, roads, transportation infrastructure, government hospitals, public safety facilities and equipment, water and sewer projects, environmental projects, energy projects, governmental housing projects, and public utilities. The Recovery Act provided state fiscal relief to prevent further cutbacks in key services provided by public employees – keeping teachers in the classroom and cops on the beat.

[H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; U.S. Treasury Department, 04/3/09]

**Senator Reid Saved the CityCenter Development in Las Vegas, Resulting in the Preservation of Over 22,000 Jobs.** When it looked like the CityCenter construction project was on the verge of collapse, Senator Reid took the lead and fought to keep the lines of credit open so that the project could continue. Thanks in part to Senator Reid's actions, over 10,000 workers helped construct this massive project, and CityCenter now provides permanent jobs to over 12,000 Nevadans. This "city within a city" has now set the standard for responsible, environmentally-conscious developments.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S WORKFORCE RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Spearheaded Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Which Has Created or Saved 29,000 Thousand Jobs in Nevada
- ★ Senator Reid Saved the CityCenter Development in Las Vegas, Resulting in the Preservation of Over 22,000 Jobs
- ★ Senator Reid Advocated for the Cancellation of Indebtedness and Protected Over 30,000 Jobs at Harrah's Alone
- ★ Senator Reid Helped Stabilize and Save Pensions and Benefits for Nevada's Workers
- ★ Senator Reid Helped to Secure and Improve Federal Unemployment Benefits
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Ensure Nevada Test Site (NTS) Workers' Receive Fair Compensation
- ★ Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage
- ★ Senator Reid Led the Effort to Give Women Equal Pay for Equal Work
- ★ Senator Reid Strongly Supports the Employee Free Choice Act
- ★ Senator Reid Provided Funding for Vital Job Training Programs Through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- ★ Senator Reid Fought for and Passed the Travel Promotion Act to Stimulate Nevada's Tourism Industry
- ★ Senator Reid Secured Billions of Dollars for Nevada to Aid Creation of Jobs in Renewable Energy
- ★ Senator Reid Fought for Millions in Funding for Energy and Water Projects That Put Nevadans Back to Work
- ★ Senator Reid Secured More Than \$3 Billion for Nevada Transportation Projects Since 2000

**Senator Reid Advocated for the Cancellation of Indebtedness and Protected Over 30,000 Jobs at Harrah's Alone.** Businesses needing to restructure their debts in order to survive the economic downturn found themselves facing a significant tax penalty as a result of that process. As part of the Recovery Act, Senator Reid was instrumental in pushing through relief from this tax penalty, helping Nevada companies improve their balance sheets and save thousands of jobs. The CEO of Harrah's, Jan Jones, has said, "Aside from the money Nevada received from the stimulus, the cancellation of indebtedness provision and *Travel Promotion Act* were important additions that helped the gaming industry." She credited Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid with both. The cancellation of indebtedness provision allows companies to restructure their debt and delays payment of the resulting tax in order to give firms time to recover. "For Harrah's Entertainment, that allowed us to protect 31,000 jobs in Nevada alone. This piece of legislation allowed Harrah's to work to restructure to make sure we kept our employees employed," said Jones, a former Las Vegas mayor and current member of the governor's Spending and Government Efficiency Commission. Station Casinos Chief Development Officer Scott Neilson said his company hasn't been able to take part in the debt cancellation provision since Station is currently in bankruptcy proceedings, but said the legislation will allow the company increased flexibility as it restructures. "Even though a lot of the companies in the Nevada economy trying to work through this [bankruptcy] process right now might not have been able to take advantage of this provision yet, I think that they will and I think you'll see a lot of companies benefit greatly," he said." [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; Las Vegas Sun, 10/22/09; H.R. 1299, Senate Vote 28, 02/25/10, P.L. 111-145]

**Senator Reid Helped Stabilize and Save Pensions and Benefits for Nevada's Workers.** In the closing days of the Bush Administration, Senator Reid worked with Republicans and Democrats to provide temporary relief for employers facing funding increases that threatened the future pensions of thousands of workers and retirees in Nevada. This action was crucial due to the economic deterioration and the substantial setback of the financial markets. Without this relief, many employers would have been forced to consider freezing or terminating their employees' pension plans. [H.R. 7327, Unanimous Consent, 12/11/08, P.L. 110-458]

**Senator Reid Helped to Secure and Improve Federal Unemployment Benefits.** Senator Reid continues to fight for out-of-work Nevadans to make sure they have the unemployment benefits they need to provide for their families as they look for work. In addition to helping those who are out of work through no fault of their own, providing unemployment benefits is one of the most cost effective ways to stimulate the economy. At the beginning of this most recent economic downturn, Senator Reid pushed to provide for federal unemployment benefits. When the economic downturn proved to be worse than expected and unemployed workers were having difficulty finding employment, Senator Reid fought to increase weekly benefits by \$25, provide longer benefits for high unemployment states such as Nevada, and continue the program while the economy begins to recover. [H.R. 264, Senate Vote 162, 06/26/08, P.L. 110-252; H.R. 6867, Voice Vote, 11/20/08, P.L. 110-449; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 3548, Senate Vote 334, 11/04/09, P.L. 111-092; H.R. 3326, Senate Vote 384, 12/19/09, P.L. 111-118; H.R. 4691, Senate Vote 32, 03/02/10, P.L. 111-144; H.R. 4851, Senate Vote 117, 04/15/10, P.L. 111-157]

**Senator Reid Led the Effort to Ensure Nevada Test Site (NTS) Workers' Receive Fair Compensation.** Senator Reid was instrumental in the passage of legislation that provides monetary compensation and medical coverage to NTS workers with radiation-induced cancers, beryllium disease, silicosis and other illnesses caused by toxic chemicals. When he heard complaints about the implementation of the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act* (EEOICPA) from claimants in 2005, Senator Reid took action to ensure Nevada's Cold War Veterans would get the compensation and respect they deserve. In that

same year, Senator Reid was instrumental in pushing the Bush Administration to add the atmospheric testing years (1951-1962) at NTS to an expedited eligibility category. Senator Reid continued to fight for workers during the underground testing years (1963-1993) by sponsoring legislation, and working with workers and survivors to submit a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition to add workers to the expedited category. Thanks to Senator Reid's hard work in filing the SEC Petition, testifying on behalf of workers, writing letters to appropriate entities, and monitoring the Petition's progress, the underground testing years were added to the expedited category in May 2010. In 2008, Senator Reid had also successfully fought for NTS workers at Area 51 to be eligible for the EEOICPA, thereby reversing a Bush Administration policy. [H.R. 4205, Senate Vote 275, 10/12/00, P.L. 106-398; H.R. 4200, Unanimous Consent, 6/23/04, PL. 108-375; Letter to President Bush, 11/30/05; S. 2439, Introduced 3/16/2006; Reid Submitted Statement to Advisory Board, 06/15/06; Letter to NIOSH, 07/24/06; Reid Testimony to Advisory Board, 09/21/06; S.650, Introduced 2/15/2007; S.Amdt. 2170 to H.R. 1585, Introduced 07/12/07; Reid Testimony to Advisory Board, 01/09/08; Reid Letter to Advisory Board, 05/21/08; Reid Testimony at HELP Committee Hearing on EEOICPA, 10/23/07; Reid Letter to Advisory Board, 02/03/10; Letter to DOL, NIOSH, DOE 04/24/08; Letter from DOL, 06/25/08]

**Senator Reid Was Instrumental in Raising the Federal Minimum Wage.** After nearly a decade of struggle against Republican opposition, Senator Reid helped usher through the first increase to the federal minimum wage since 1997. Despite the efforts of those against the wage hike, the bill finally passed, along with \$8.3 billion in tax cuts for small businesses. The legislation raised minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, which directly or indirectly benefits 13 million hardworking Americans. [H.R. 2206, Senate Vote 181, 05/24/07, P.L. 110-028; H.R. 2, Senate Vote 42, 02/1/2007, P.L. 110-028]

**Senator Reid Has Led the Effort to Give Women Equal Pay for Equal Work.** Senator Reid led the successful effort in the Senate to pass the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*, the first bill President Obama signed into law. This landmark legislation restores civil rights protections for workers who face pay discrimination based on age, race, gender, national origin, religion, or disability. This legislation will help to ensure that men and women are paid fairly and that they have a fair opportunity under the law to fight back when they are not. After fighting to pass the bill in the face of resistance from an unsupportive Bush Administration, Senator Reid made passage a top priority in 2009, clearing the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* for White House approval just a week after President Obama took office. Sen. Reid is also an original cosponsor of the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would revise and strengthen the *Equal Pay Act of 1963* and further target gender pay discrepancies in the workplace. He recently reintroduced this important legislation in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. [S. 181, Senate Vote 37, 01/27/09, P.L. 111-002; S. 182, Introduced 01/08/09; S. 3772, Introduced 09/13/10]

**Senator Reid Strongly Supports the Employee Free Choice Act.** As an original co-sponsor, Senator Reid remains a strong supporter of the *Employee Free Choice Act*. Senator Reid believes that giving workers the options they need to negotiate for a more secure contract rebuilds our economy one worker, one union and one Nevada family at a time. [S. 560, Introduced 03/10/09]

**Senator Reid Provided Funding for Vital Job Training Programs Through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).** Always putting Nevada workers first, Senator Reid has worked tirelessly to bring federal funding back to the state for a wide variety of job training investments that directly benefit Nevada's workforce. WIA is the nation's chief vehicle for job training funding and programming and Senator Reid has been supportive of WIA programs since the legislation first passed the Senate in 1998. Recently, Senator Reid championed the Recovery Act, which made an unprecedented commitment to empowering Nevada workers by providing critical funding for job training and education. These funds make many youth, employment, and training activities possible. For example, the Recovery Act allocated more than \$7 million to WIA Youth Activities, which provides

low-income youth assistance to complete an educational program or secure and hold employment. WIA Adult Activities received more than \$3 million to help individuals with their career goals by increasing job readiness, educational attainment, and occupational skills. The Recovery Act also allocated more than \$14 million to WIA Dislocated Workers, which helped to quickly re-employ laid-off workers to enhance their competitiveness and earnings in the workplace by increasing occupational skills. The Wagner-Peyser Employment Service received more than \$3 million to enhance their services, which are designed to help both employed and unemployed workers obtain jobs and give employers access to skilled workers. [H.R. 1385, Senate Vote 119, 05/05/98, P.L. 105-220; H.J.Res. 2, Senate Vote 34, 02/13/03, P.L. 108-007; H.Con.Res. 95, Senate Vote 134, 04/11/03; H.R. 2673, Senate Vote 3, 01/22/04, P.L. 108-199; H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005]

### **Senator Reid Fought for and Passed the Travel Promotion Act to Stimulate Nevada's Tourism Industry.**

Hundreds of thousands of Nevadans depend on tourism for their employment, and the travel industry is a major revenue generator for our state. Understanding how crucial this industry is to Nevada and our Nation, Senator Reid shepherded passage of the Travel Promotion Act. This important legislation follows the model of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, by establishing a public-private partnership to promote exciting destinations like Las Vegas, Reno and Lake Tahoe. It will bring more visitors to our country, and create more jobs in the travel, tourism and service industries, which is very important to Nevada. Because of Senator Reid's leadership in the Senate and collaboration with his colleagues in the House of Representatives, the *Travel Promotion Act* passed both chambers and is now law. The U.S. Travel Association estimates that the *Travel Promotion Act* could create 40,000 American jobs and yield \$321 million in new federal tax revenue annually. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that it would reduce the deficit by \$425 million over the next decade. [S. 1023, Senate Vote 272, 09/09/09; U.S. Travel Association, Get America's Economy Back on Track; Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate, S. 1023; H.R. 1299, Senate Vote 28, 02/25/10, P.L. 111-145]

**Senator Reid Secured Billions of Dollars for Nevada to Aid Creation of Clean Energy Jobs.** Through the Senator's efforts in passing the Recovery Act and the *Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008*, nearly 340 permanent clean energy jobs were created throughout Nevada. In addition, there have been almost 400 construction jobs created to support the many renewable energy projects throughout the state. Dozens of renewable energy projects throughout Nevada are currently underway or will likely begin this year leading to over 3,000 new jobs. For example, the Southwest Intertie Project or One Nevada transmission line alone will create an estimated 400 new construction jobs starting this fall, while the City of Reno has estimated that Recovery Act projects will create a total of 205 new jobs by 2012, and the City of Las Vegas will create 50 new jobs when it begins similarly funded projects. Senator Reid delivered \$3.25 billion in financing for developing transmission for renewable energy in the West, as well \$4.4 billion to build a national smart grid to accelerate renewable energy development in Nevada and across the country. Senator Reid has repeatedly extended and fought for billions of dollars in renewable energy and efficiency tax incentives for businesses and consumers. Most recently, this included a long-term extension through the *Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008*, which included an investment tax credit for solar energy projects, and significantly raised the tax credit for residential use of solar. Senator Reid also introduced the *Clean Renewable Energy and Economic Development Act*, helping chart a course to a cleaner, greener and smarter national energy transmission system without sacrificing reliability or affordability. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 6049, Senate Vote 205, 09/23/08; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, Division B of P.L. 110-343; S. 539, Introduced 03/05/09]

**Senator Reid Fought for Millions in Funding for Energy and Water Projects That Put Nevadans Back to Work.** Senator Reid helped provide over \$100 million in formula funding for Nevada for clean energy

projects, and secured more than \$57 million for Nevada energy and water projects in the FY2010 *Energy and Water Appropriations Act*. These projects will put Nevadans back to work across the state, working on solar, wind, biofuel, and geothermal initiatives that will bring Nevada closer to energy independence. [H.R. 1, Senate Vote 64, 02/13/09, P.L. 111-005; H.R. 1424, Senate Vote 213, 10/01/08, P.L. 110-343; H.R. 3183, Senate Vote 322, 10/15/09, P.L. 111-085]

**Senator Reid Secured More Than \$3 Billion for Nevada Transportation Projects Since 2000.** In 2000, Nevada received \$152.2 million in federal transportation assistance and by 2009 our state had received \$344.9 million. As a result of Senator Reid’s work on federal highway bills, Nevada has seen a 126% increase in federal transportation spending over this time period. Senator Reid has worked to improve federal highway funding formulas and secure earmarks for Nevada transportation projects. In Southern Nevada, Senator Reid has worked to relieve congestion on I-15 and increase capacity by widening lanes. He has also directed funding to build out interchanges on the Clark County Beltway and increased federal support for mass transit initiatives, including the new CityCenter Intermodal Center. [NDOT Statistics, Federal Aid Summary - \$2.2 billion since FY00; P.L. 111-005; P.L. 111-008; P.L. 110-161; P.L. 109-115; P.L. 108-447; P.L. 108-199; P.L. 108-007; P.L. 107-087; P.L. 106-346; P.L. 106-069]

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