

Reno land bill deserves support

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The successful completion of Reno's train trench has given the city a unique opportunity for redevelopment of its downtown.

In the process of lowering the train tracks that for many years had split its center, Reno picked up

78 parcels totaling 120 acres of formerly railroad land that, now that the trench is built, have considerable development potential.

The city is nearing approval of a master plan that will guide the development. Now it needs clear title to the properties, which were among those granted to the Central Pacific Railroad in the 1800s for construction of the first transcontinental railroad. The land was to revert to the federal government if the parcels were sold.

That's why a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by U.S. Rep. Dean Heller, R-Nev., and passed this week is critical to the city's efforts. The bill would clear up the title to the property, which is of no use to the federal government, and allow Reno to move forward with development. (Among the properties the city received from the Central Pacific's successor, Union Pacific, are two that will be part of the baseball stadium project.)

The bill has been introduced in the Senate by U.S. Sens. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and John Ensign, R-Nev. For the city's future, it deserves congressional support.