

Few critics as Nevada mulls Tesla tax breaks

September 11 2014, by Scott Sonner



Protesters march in front of the Capitol in Carson City, Nev., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, as state lawmakers work in a special session to consider a complex package of up to \$1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives in an effort to bring Tesla Motors to Nevada. The protesters are opposed to a proposal to gut the state film tax credit program to help pay for the Tesla deal. (AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)

The Nevada Legislature has adjourned the first day of a special session considering an unprecedented package of up to \$1.3 billion in incentives to bring Tesla Motors' \$5 billion battery factory to the state.

State senators spent nearly 10 hours in negotiations behind closed doors before following the Assembly's lead and adjourning Wednesday just before 10 p.m. They planned to begin debate Thursday on the biggest part of the incentive package for the electric-car maker: up to \$1.1 billion to finance the abatement of Tesla's various property, sales and use taxes, in some cases for up to 20 years.

Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval urged the Democrat-controlled Legislature to seize an "extraordinary opportunity" to land the "gigafactory" and more than 20,000 jobs he projects it would lead to over 20 years.

Critics said [lawmakers](#) are gambling with taxpayers' money, but they were in the minority and conceded it would be difficult to block the legislation.



Nevada Assembly Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick, D-North Las Vegas, talks with

Assemblyman Paul Anderson, R-Las Vegas, at the Legislature in Carson City, Nev., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval called lawmakers into a special session to examine a deal that gives \$1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives to bring Tesla Motors to Nevada. (AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)



Nevada Senators, from left, Ruben Kihuen, David Parks and Barbara Cegavske talk with Gov. Brian Sandoval, right center, at the Capitol, in Carson City, Nev., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014. Sandoval called lawmakers into a special session to examine a deal that gives \$1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives to bring Tesla Motors to Nevada. (AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)



Nevada Sens. Michael Roberson, R-Las Vegas, left, and Mark Manendo, D-Las Vegas, work in a special session at the Nevada Legislature, in Carson City, Nev., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014. Lawmakers are considering a complex package of up to \$1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives as part of a deal to bring Tesla Motors to Nevada. (AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)



A banner welcoming Tesla to Nevada is hung on the US Bank building just south of the downtown Reno casino district on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Reno, Nev. State lawmakers planned to meet in a special legislative session in Carson City on Wednesday to consider a package of tax breaks and incentives worth up to \$1.3 billion to seal a deal to bring the electric car maker's \$5 billion lithium battery "gigafactory" to an industrial park in the state. (AP Photo/Scott Sonner)



From left, Steve Hill, with the Nevada Office of Economic Development, Tony Sanchez, with NV Energy, left, and Paul Thomsen, with the Nevada Office of Energy, answer questions from lawmakers during a special session at the Nevada Legislature, in Carson City, Nev., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014. Lawmakers are considering a complex package of up to \$1.3 billion in tax breaks and other incentives as part of a deal to bring Tesla Motors to Nevada. (AP Photo/Cathleen Allison)

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