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**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 358**  
**before Assembly Committee on Government Affairs**  
**May 10, 2003**

**Introduction**

Good morning. My name is Myrna Williams, Clark County Commissioner for District E and I am here this morning on behalf of the Clark County Commission to indicate the commission's support of Senate Bill 358. This bill directly impacts Clark County and its citizens, and I would like to take a few moments to provide you with some background on the Red Rock Canyon issue and explain why the Commission is in support of this measure.

**Background**

Red Rock Canyon is an area of unique, unusual scenic beauty that brings a rural flavor to the otherwise urban portions of Clark County. In addition to its scenic beauty and geologic significance, Red Rock Canyon provides recreational opportunities to residents as well as visitors from both within and outside the state of Nevada.

Clark County has a long history of protecting the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and adjacent lands. Following the establishment of the conservation area by the federal government, in 1990 Clark County in consultation with residents and property owners, adopted a master plan for the Red Rock area that included a small industrial area (gypsum mine), a very small commercial area (Blue Diamond), parks and recreation (the national conservation area itself), and several thousand acres of private land. And just last year in 2002, Clark County adopted the Red Rock Design Overlay District that established standards for commercial development for setbacks, visual impacts, site design, appearance, and materials which were intended to provide additional protection to the scenic, recreational, and rural character of the Red Rock area. We will be considering an ordinance on May 21, 2003 to expand the Overlay District to include residential design standards and additional lands in the Red Rock area.

Clark County recognizes the state of Nevada's interest in the Red Rock area. The unusual beauty of the area was recognized by the legislature when it adopted the 1993 Act to regulate activity in the area.

This act can be found in chapter 639 of the Statutes of Nevada 1993 and some parts of that act are amended in the SB358 before you today.

### **Purpose and Intent of Bill**

While any legislative proposal to limit the powers of local governments is always a concern, Senate Bill 358 is narrow and focused:

- Local government retains all authority for planning, zoning and regulation of land use in the Red Rock area OTHER than the limitations established in section 8 of the bill.
- The bill applies to only a very small area of Clark County.
- The bill does not affect Clark County's ability to implement the Red Rock master plan.
- The bill is written so that it does not affect zoning that exists on the effective date of the legislation.

Section 9 of the bill indicates the support of the legislature for the acquisition of vacant private lands by the federal government that is consistent with and supportive of the resolution passed by Clark County May 6, 2003 entitled, "Acquisition of Environmentally Sensitive Land and Natural Area Commonly Known as the James Hardie Gypsum Mine".

I wish to commend Senator Titus and everyone else involved in the development of this bill.

### **Conclusion**

To summarize, Senate Bill 358 is consistent with long-established policies and practices of Clark County concerning the Red Rock Canyon area. On behalf of the Clark County Commission, I urge the committee to recommend passage of the First Reprint of Senate Bill 358 to the full Assembly. I appreciate your time this Saturday morning and would be happy to try to answer any questions the Committee may have either now or at any time during the hearing.