

## DISCLAIMER

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Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the Assembly.

My name is Ed Thiessen. I am a longtime bicyclist and a board member of the Las Vegas Valley Bicycle Club, which urges you to support Senate Bill 358.

Our club of about 300 members promotes safe bicycling and represents the interests of bicyclists in Southern Nevada. Some of these cyclists pedal to work. Some of them pedal to school.

Many of them pedal to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area along State Road 159.

It is the last unspoiled stretch of state highway on which to ride in Clark County. Hundreds of cyclists ride to Red Rock every week to enjoy the view and the relatively light traffic volume.

Without the development limits protected by Senate Bill 358, suburban sprawl and the high volume of commuter traffic it creates will inundate the region's best and most popular bicycle route.

This means an increased possibility of crashes along a stretch of road that attracts bicycle enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. It will drastically and adversely affect the safety of riders, the riding experience and the quality of life for residents. Many cyclists will simply stop riding there.

But there's more to Red Rock than just a pretty face. Our club fields dozens of inquiries every month from tourists looking for places to rent bicycles so they can ride to Red Rock.

One Las Vegas bike shop owner rented 4,280 bicycles to tourists last year. Every single one of them was ridden to Red Rock. Those rentals alone account for 36 percent of his annual business. Some visitors even stay an extra day for the chance to pedal to Red Rock.

But no one will spend \$200 on a bike rental or pay for an extra day at their hotel to ride through a subdivision. They can do that at home.

At a time when Nevada is trying to diversify its economy with small businesses and expand its tourism opportunities, we can't afford to lose a place like Red Rock to more housing developments.

We urge you to pass this bill and protect this area from more development than it can handle.

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 358 for the safety of your Southern Nevada bicyclists and the economic stability of the small businesses that depend on the tourism dollars generated by bicycle riding in Red Rock.

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ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
DATE: 5/10/03 ROOM: 4401 EXHIBIT J  
SUBMITTED BY: Ed Thiessen