

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

May 5, 2003

Re: Opposition to language in NV SB 486 as an amendment to NRS 561.045.

To Nevada Assembly Committee Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining chairperson, members, and others:

SB 486 is only one more imperialistic stepping stone by the politically powerful special interest group, historically known as the *sagebrush rebellion*, that has continually pecked away, like a chicken, over past decades at America's free roaming wild horses on both public and private ranges as they march to gain control and ownership of America's public lands as their own private domain. The added language, "*feral livestock*" is an example of ignorance and perpetuates the rhetoric by this group aimed directly at wild horses. Attached is "*THE REST OF THE STORY*", articles that are informative and educational. The Pied Piper of Hamelin conspiracy must be stifled as our public lands and ALL wild horses are methodically being destroyed.

Nevada political affairs may call them "estrays", "feral livestock", etc., but wild horses are wildlife, not livestock. SB 486 states that "feral livestock" does not include equines who are subject to jurisdiction of the federal government pursuant to Wild Free-Roaming Horses & Burros Act of 1971. However, the herd areas/herd management areas have been and continue to be negatively manipulated in a way that these areas are shrinking and historically wild horses/burros are pushed from federal lands onto private ranges. BLM and NDA collaborate to classify wild horses as "estrays" and now the term, "feral livestock" is added, to again treat them as livestock. This group has vowed to repeal this Act. NRS 561.045 will be perfectly worded to take over America's wild horses as livestock. Most will end up as delicacies on the dinner tables of Europe, Japan, and Scandinavian countries for a huge profit. America's Heritage and America's symbols of freedom will be destroyed.

Webster New Collegiate Dictionary defines AGRICULTURE as "*the science or art of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation of these products for man's use and their disposal*". LIVESTOCK is defined as "*animals kept or raised for use or pleasure; especially: farm animals kept for use and profit*". As you can see, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has over stepped its function, instigated by the group mentioned above. SB 486 will only create a larger non-agricultural "zoo" to the already NRS 561.045 "zoo" with the language that defines "animal" as "*any thing that is NOT human*". The word Livestock is now obsolete for their plan. SB 486 is blatantly out of bounds for the NDA, except for the changes regarding sheep. I can't point a finger entirely to the NDA, as both NDA and BLM are controlled by this greedy private special interest group.

The philosophy of Nevada Department of Agriculture "*to advance and protect the livestock and agricultural industries in this state*" is reflected by a bumper sticker that I saw some time ago. In essence, it said... *Cattle Grazing: Earth First... Venus Next*. This is at the expense of anyone, anything or any animal that stands in its way, including America's vanishing over managed free roaming wild horses. Now Elk-Free Zones have been created. What and who will be next in their plan?

What is the cost of sustaining the public lands livestock ranching industry to the American taxpayer? Over 4 years ago, the annual cost was estimated from \$75 million (*National Wildlife Foundation*) to \$178 million (*U.S. Government*) to \$500 million (*Competitive Enterprise Institute, a Washington D.C. "Think Tank"*) to over \$2 billion (*The Waste of the West... Lynn Jacobs*), per Jon Marvel, IWP 8-5-98 and Peter Galvin 9-1-98.

I no longer see Nevada's Natural Resources as conservation or preservation, but as a pig trough at which this special interest group furiously feeds, pushing away others under the auspices of "state's rights". This group hates government, unless they control it, and has always been first in line for governmental handouts to benefit their personal greed. A few peanuts are thrown to the unknowing public to create a positive perception to win public support. Nevada...soon will be perceived as The Cow Flop State.

I respectfully submit my testimony for the written record, to this committee and to other Nevada Legislators.

Betty Kelly, M.D.
25 Lewers Creek Road
Carson City, NV 89704

ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING
DATE: 5/5/03 ROOM: 3161 EXHIBIT I
SUBMITTED BY: Betty Kelly