

## DISCLAIMER

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My name is Robert Curtis. I am a homeowner in Spanish Springs and a member of the Spanish Springs Action Committee. I come before you today in support of Senate Bill 200. I represent 1723 homeowners who signed a petition that was submitted to the State last year in opposition to the cost of the proposed Septic to Sewer Conversion Project.

As homeowners and concerned citizens we realize that we share partial financial responsibility in complying to the directive issued by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. We are in agreement that the standards of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act must be upheld to insure the health of the general public.

Senate Bill 200 not only addresses compliance with directives issued by the State in Washoe County but would address similar issues throughout the State. The proposed conversion was estimated to cost the effected homeowners between \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00. This is a unrealistic financial burden that few homeowners in Spanish Springs could absorb. We have had our property values lowered, a stigma has been attached to the resale of our homes and most of us would lose all the equity we have amassed without hope of ever recouping it.

Our situation is different because we were issued a directive by the NDEP stating that because of health issues we were being directed to comply by connecting to a sanitary sewer system. When we bought our homes we did in fact have permitted septic systems. The State and the County approved them. The County Health Department

permitted 499 septic systems in a four mile radius. The acceptable number should have been 99. The homeowners had no knowledge of this fact and did not know that years down the road that they would be financially responsible for a error in judgment.

We feel that a partnership between the Local, State and Federal governments is the only realistic approach to both meeting the directive issued by the NDEP and complying with the standards set forth in the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

We realize that public health and safety comes at a price. We realize that we have a responsibility towards the health and safety of our community. We ask though for some assistance financially to comply with the directive from the NDEP that is both fair and equitable to the homeowners in Spanish Springs and across this state. Thank you for your consideration in hearing Senate Bill 200 today.

Robert Curtis  
Spanish Springs Action Committee