

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE,
AND MINING**

**Seventy-Seventh Session
April 9, 2013**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Chair Skip Daly at 1:03 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Room 3161 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at nelis.leg.state.nv.us/77th2013. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Skip Daly, Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Assemblyman Richard Carrillo
Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblyman Ira Hansen
Assemblyman James W. Healey
Assemblyman Pete Livermore
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assembly District No. 38

Minutes ID: 779



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amelie Welden, Committee Policy Analyst
Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel
Cheryl Williams, Recording Secretary
Steve Sisneros, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Barbee, Director, Department of Agriculture
Don Alt, President, Nevada Live Stock Association
Mikel Hettrick, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Anne Hall, Private Citizen, Fernley, Nevada
Doug Busselman, representing the Nevada Farm Bureau
Patty Bumgarner, Private Citizen, Dayton, Nevada
Gayle Weatherman, Private Citizen, Stagecoach, Nevada
Kyle Davis, representing Nevada Conservation League
Chuck Allen, Public Information Officer, Nevada Highway Patrol
Lance Kirk, Chair, Flamingo Club
Steve Evans, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Jack Levine, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Fred Hillerby, representing the American Institute of Architects
Ronald M. James, Chair, National Park Service Advisory Board
Landmarks Committee

Chair Daly:

We will do the work session. We have one bill so it should be easy.

Assembly Bill 483: Limits the amount of the fees that the State Engineer may charge and collect for certain applications to appropriate water for wildlife purposes submitted by the Department of Wildlife. (BDR S-745)

Amelie Welden, Committee Policy Analyst:

I am nonpartisan staff and do not advocate for or against any legislation. We have Assembly Bill 483, which directs the State Engineer to charge a fee of not more than \$1,000 each for certain applications made by the Department of Wildlife in 1975 to appropriate drain and floodwaters in the Humboldt Sink for wildlife purposes ([Exhibit C](#)).

The bill sets forth the legislative finding that these few limitations are necessary to allow the Department to maintain the wildlife and wetlands in the Humboldt Wildlife Management Area. The bill further explains that the Department submitted four applications for appropriation of such waters in 1975 when the associated

fees were a total of \$100; however, by the time the applications were processed in 2008, the fees totaled \$387,500. There were no amendments proposed at the hearing. The bill was presented by the Department of Wildlife and the State Engineer, and there was no additional testimony on the bill.

Chair Daly:

Thank you. At this time I will accept a motion to do pass.

ASSEMBLYMAN ELLISON MOVED TO DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 483.

ASSEMBLYMAN WHEELER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL ANDERSON WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Daly:

Mr. Ellison will do the floor statement. Now we will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 264.

Assembly Bill 264: Increases the penalty for certain crimes relating to estrays and feral livestock. (BDR 50-531)

Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assembly District No. 38:

This bill today addresses stray and feral horses on the Virginia Range east of Carson City all the way to Silver Springs. Horses are seen in many areas here. The new fencing along the highway has helped tremendously, unless the gates are left open. [Continued reading from prepared testimony ([Exhibit D](#)).]

Let me stress to you—this is not an anti-horse bill. This is a safety bill for both horses and humans. Existing law under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 569.040 to 569.130 makes it unlawful for a person, other than an authorized agent of the Department of Agriculture, to feed or retain possession of these horses.

This bill makes two changes: NRS 569.031 section 1 specifies that feeding these horses results in a warning. This bill makes it a gross misdemeanor for a second and subsequent violations of this provision.

By the same token, section 2 specifies that if you keep in your possession any stray or feral livestock outside the provisions of NRS 569.040 to 569.130, you are guilty of a gross misdemeanor, to match section 1.

We must give our homeowners, sheriff, and highway patrol help to stop homeowners or sightseers from feeding these horses. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit D](#)).]

Chair Daly:

Are there any questions for Mr. Grady? [There were none.]

Jim Barbee, Director, Department of Agriculture:

We thank Assemblyman Grady for bringing this bill forward. It addresses a very important issue that we have dealt with. I am sure you have seen photographs of horses coming down into residential areas because they are being fed. Having a second occurrence become a gross misdemeanor will be a much stronger deterrent for folks continuing to feed the horses, drawing them into urban areas. This is beneficial for public safety and the horses' safety as well.

Chair Daly:

Are there any questions from the Committee? [There were none.] I have a question. How are the warnings established so you know when there is a particular subsequent infraction? Is there a ticket or notation?

Jim Barbee:

We have one enforcement officer that oversees that entire area. They will write a warning on a ticket and we will keep a copy to retain the individual's information and the address where it occurred.

Chair Daly:

I just wanted to make sure there was a process. Are there any other questions from the Committee?

Assemblyman Livermore:

Reading the bill, when you define the phrase "to feed," does that mean to make their lawns available for this?

Jim Barbee:

No. The issue that we have seen is people putting hay on their lawns or putting grass clippings out for the horses. We consider that providing feed. If the horses are just on the lawn and grazing, then no, that would not be the case.

Assemblyman Livermore:

The reason I ask that question is because a lot of this is in my district. When I campaigned last year in the Virginia Foothills, I was amazed at the efforts that some people had gone through to keep the horses off their property, including stakes with wire, a lot of Walmart bags, you name it.

Assemblywoman Cohen:

You touched on my question already, but how much of this is organized versus people who are just out and about and think, "Oh, hey, there are some horses, I am going to go feed them?"

Jim Barbee:

I do not know so much if this is an organized effort by a large group, but individuals on certain blocks in certain areas decide that as the feed sources dry up on the range, that they want to intervene and provide feed for the horses. What we have seen is any number of things from providing feed out their back doors, off their back lawns, to feed in the middle of a cul-de-sac, and right on the sidewalks, bringing the horses down into the urban areas.

Chair Daly:

Are there any other questions? [There were none.] We will hear further testimony in support.

Don Alt, President, Nevada Live Stock Association:

I have rangeland in the area, and the people that feed the horses make it really hard to manage the livestock. I cannot keep my cattle on one side of the mountain if somebody has alfalfa on the other side. It makes it very difficult to manage livestock when somebody else is providing feed out there.

Mikel Hettrick, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

I am the owner of a fed wild horse. The Bunny Ranch in Mound House fed and watered his band three-tenths of a mile from Highway 50. By feeding the horses, it caused the band to hang around in the area, and between feedings, the band would graze around the area and were often seen grazing alongside Highway 50. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit E](#)).]

A drunk driver hit three of his band and killed them, all because they were grazing alongside the highway. The band was trapped as nuisance horses and sold. The real nuisance were the feeders, and because of this, he lost his balls, his mares, his freedom, and for what? For someone's selfish, ignorant motives.

This penalty needs to pass so law enforcement will have the authority to warn and fine and hopefully stop vehicular accidents involving horses. Anyone not in favor of this bill I have to ask, "Why do you want any more horses killed, injured, or removed from the range?"

Anne Hall, Private Citizen, Fernley, Nevada:

I believe there needs to be some kind of consequence or these people will continue to feed the horses. The horses are crossing major highways due to people feeding in neighborhoods and close to the highways, not only putting the horses at risk of getting hit, but more importantly, the risk of injury to people driving on these highways. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit F](#)).]

People want to preserve the wild horses. This will not happen unless they let the horses be wild. Note that I am not against emergency feeding by the proper authorities or people given permission to do so by the proper authorities.

Chair Daly:

That was a good point on that last part. Public agencies can feed the wild horses in emergency situations.

Doug Busselman, representing the Nevada Farm Bureau:

We are in support of the bill.

Chair Daly:

I love that testimony. Are there any questions from the Committee? [There were none.]

Patty Bumgarner, Private Citizen, Dayton, Nevada:

The Dayton herds came into the Santa Maria area in August 2012; a small band of five and another of nine. The small band moved on in October. A man started feeding the other ones at different times of the day with hay that he kept in a shed. The horses were crossing the highway four times a day. A lot of times I stopped traffic to help the horses cross. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit G](#)).]

This needs to be stopped. The feeders need to be stopped.

Gayle Weatherman, Private Citizen, Stagecoach, Nevada:

I have lived in Stagecoach for 43 years, and I have seen many changes in that time. Just recently, seven-tenths of a mile off of Highway 50 in Stagecoach, a person was feeding approximately 40 wild horses. There were about six bands, and four of them were always in the hills. Because of this person's proximity to open range, the horses wandered in and stayed. She fed these horses for almost a year, and when she finally stopped feeding the horses, they migrated throughout Stagecoach neighborhoods looking for handouts. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit H](#)).]

These are the horses I know who have been killed or injured because of these feedings ([Exhibit I](#)). A mare was killed crossing Highway 50. A stallion was killed crossing the highway. A pregnant mare was chased by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders and ran over a T-post, cutting her open. She went back to where she was fed. She bled out and her foal also died. A mare was cut by wire. One horse got a can stuck on her foot. One stud had a broken shoulder and had to be destroyed. A stud got a puncture wound and died. A stallion was chased by ATV riders into a fence, breaking his leg, and he had to be killed. A foal was killed in an auto accident in front of a feeder's yard. [Continued to read from prepared testimony ([Exhibit H](#)).]

I urge you to pass this bill for the safety of the horses and the safety of people who drive through this area.

Kyle Davis, representing Nevada Conservation League:

We are supportive of the bill.

Mikel Hettrick:

I am reading this for Shannon Windle. She was unable to be here. This is posted on NELIS.

My name is Shannon Windle. I am the President of the Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund based in eastern Reno. Our mission is to protect, monitor, and care for the wild horses that make their home on the western slopes of the Virginia Range. One of our challenges is to work for the safety of the public and that of the horses by ensuring the horses are kept up on the hillsides away from the congested streets of the residential areas skirting the Virginia Range.

[Continued reading from prepared text ([Exhibit J](#)).]

Chuck Allen, Public Information Officer, Nevada Highway Patrol:

I want to share some comments as this relates to public safety. The problem we fear is a human is going to be killed in an automobile crash due to striking a horse. In 2012, there were approximately 40 horse-related crashes that were queried and we are up to 5 this year throughout the entire state. Most of those happen on Highway 50 or Highway 95, and also on Highway 395 in Pleasant Valley. The crash that really shed a lot of light on this particular subject was a young lady who struck three horses on Highway 395 near Andrew Lane. I believe she is very fortunate to be alive. If you had seen the crash scene, it was truly horrific, not only for the animals but for all the first responders that had to deal with that scene.

Additionally, I had reached out as a spokesperson for my agency to try to create public service announcements (PSA) to help educate and create awareness regarding animal crossings. To encourage folks not to feed these animals because of the potential danger of them beginning to reside in local neighborhoods thus putting them in closer proximity to our roadways. KOLO-8 has offered to produce such a PSA. Bob Fishe, of the Nevada Broadcasters Association, is supportive of distributing that statewide. That is something I have worked on just to get people the message not to feed them.

If I could make a request, if this bill is passed, maybe this could be modeled similarly to the cell phone bill, where we create a three-month awareness period to help educate residents to the dangers of feeding animals. Then implement the actual fine phase on January 1. I like the way that we were obligated to educate the public as it related to cell phones, and maybe that particular way of approaching this bill would work as well.

Chair Daly:

Can the highway patrol write these warnings or does the Department of Agriculture have to do it?

Chuck Allen:

We are sworn peace officers. If we see the violation, we can surely act upon it.

Chair Daly:

Regarding the education period, respectfully, we have had plenty of education. There is a warning in here already. People that are doing it are going to get that warning, and then they probably deserve that second ticket.

Chuck Allen:

I want to let the body know that we do have a plan in place to remind the citizens and visitors about the dangers of feeding the horses and the problems that come as a result of that.

Chair Daly:

With the public service announcement, I think those are all good tools that we should push for. Are there any questions from the Committee? [There were none.]

We will open the microphones up to any testimony or comments in opposition to A.B. 264. Seeing none, we will open the microphones to neutral testimony. Seeing none, I will close the hearing on Assembly Bill 264 and move to Assembly Joint Resolution 7.

Assembly Joint Resolution 7: Urges the importance of mid-20th century architecture in Nevada. (BDR R-609)

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Clark County Assembly District No. 16:

I am presenting Assembly Joint Resolution 7, which has to do with preserving our midcentury history. I am not sure if everyone knows about midcentury modern architecture, so I will provide a quick overview of it.

The history of midcentury modernism emerged in post-World War II America [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 2]. There were changes that were happening at that time in mortgages and how they were structured. Prior to this period, you often had to pay a 50 percent down payment. In post-WWII America, it shifted to 20 percent. There were many more people who were able to afford homes. There was also the G.I. Bill, which made homes more affordable for a larger portion of the United States. There were also a lot of new architectural innovations that allowed for much larger spaces in the interior of homes as well as larger windows. All of these changes increased the number of homes that were being bought and also brought changes to the style of homes.

There were some other influences coming from around the U.S., one of which was California's car culture. More people owned cars; there was an idea that soon we would not all be driving cars but traveling like the Jetsons. Across the U.S., there was an increased international influence throughout the 1950s. There was more international travel going on, and influences came from Scandinavian modernist design as well as the Bauhaus movement.

The goals of midcentury modern architecture were a focus on the functionality and the utilization of space [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 3]. If you go into a well-preserved midcentury home, you will find that they have things like toasters that pull out of the walls. It seemed people were ready for almost anything in that era. There was also a simplification of form, so you saw fewer arched doorways, things were squared off—they were much simpler, with less ornamentation. All of this comes because the goal was meeting the needs of the ordinary citizen.

Some of the characteristics of midcentury modern architecture include the use of open floor plans. We talk about great rooms in homes today—this is where great rooms come from, where we had enough support so we could actually have open floor plans. There was a reliance on natural materials. You saw a lot of rock being used in the interiors and exteriors of homes. There were a lot of ways in which bits of nature were incorporated into the home. One of the biggest characteristics of midcentury architecture is the blurring of boundaries between the indoor and the outdoor. There was an attempt to make it a seamless transition, and you see this

in very large windows, so as you are sitting in a room you feel you are simultaneously sitting inside and also outside.

I want to show you some examples of midcentury architecture we see across Nevada [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 4]. In the upper left is what is called desert modern, which shares a lot of commonalities with homes built in Palm Springs in the same era. The two homes in the upper left were built by Palmer & Krisel, who were extremely well-known midcentury architects. These homes are in Paradise Palms and were built in the 1960s.

The largest group of homes in the midcentury style are ranch homes, which you see in the lower right. Actually, that blue house is my house. It seemed easy to get a picture of that one. My house was designed by Hugh Taylor and is called a Cinderella ranch, where you see these accentuated eaves that come down to make it almost chalet-like. Next to that is another ranch home which is rather unusual in that it has two stories. It is in Paradise Palms. It was built in the 1960s. You may remember this home from the movie *Casino*.

In addition, there is also this style called the "Googie style." There are some residential homes built in the Googie style but many of these are commercial buildings [([Exhibit K](#)) slide 5]. You can see in the upper left, the lobby of the La Concha motel. This used to be located on the Strip. In the early 2000s, historic preservationists in Las Vegas basically sawed it apart and moved it to the northern part of downtown Las Vegas where it now serves as the lobby of the Neon Museum. This was designed by Paul R. Williams in 1961. I will talk about Paul Williams again; he was a very remarkable architect in Nevada's history. There is also the Betty Willis "Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. This was designed by one of the very few female architects of the era in 1959.

In the lower right is an example of probably the most misunderstood form of midcentury modern architecture, called brutalist architecture. This is the Flora Dungan Humanities building at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). If you will indulge me, I find this an extremely remarkable building for a couple of reasons. It was built in 1972, and for those of you who remember, this was soon after the Kent State riots. People talked about how this building, which houses the president's office and vice president's office for UNLV, has very small windows, and is set up on "legs," reinforces the idea that the president of the university is in this impregnable fortress looking down on the students. The fact that this was built after the riots, I think, is significant for our history. In the foyer, there are some remarkable midcentury characteristics. There are very large windows, and the floors are the same inside and outside the building.

These are some of the styles of midcentury modern architecture we see in Nevada. Looking across the country, as these buildings turn 50 years old, there is a lot of midcentury modern advocacy that has sprung up across the country [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 6]. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has gotten interested in these buildings; there is Preserve America; and grassroots organizations, including the Historic Reno Preservation Association, which submitted a letter of support ([Exhibit L](#)) which you can find on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS). There is also national media. There is a magazine that has become extremely popular called *Atomic Ranch*. Paradise Palms was featured in one of their recent issues. There is also *Modernism Magazine*. There are also a couple of great blogs out there about midcentury modern style, like <<http://retrorenovation.com/>> and <<http://www.atomicindy.com/>>. This is more than just awareness in Nevada; it is something that is happening nationwide.

We have quite a few buildings across the state on the National Register that are from the midcentury. One of these, on the left [([Exhibit K](#)) slide 7], the Morelli House, used to be part of the Desert Inn Estates that now is the Wynn and Encore. This is the one house that was saved from the Estates. It was designed by Hugh Taylor. There is also the Pioneer Theater in Reno, which is a great example of Googie architecture, as well as Fleischman Planetarium, which is has a very Jetsons-esque feel to it.

There are also National Register of Historic Places neighborhoods [([Exhibit K](#)), Slide 8]. There are only two in Nevada but we will be working to get more. One is John S. Park Historic District along Charleston Boulevard in downtown Las Vegas. These are homes built during the '30s through the '50s, and they cross the boundary from pre-midcentury style to midcentury. We also have Berkley Square, which is in the West Las Vegas area of Las Vegas, which brings us back to Paul R. Williams. The thing that is very remarkable about Berkley Square is that Paul R. Williams was one of the first African-American architects. He designed and worked on Berkley Square with the idea that it would be an African-American community and open up home ownership to African Americans. This is a really important shift in our history, and Paul R. Williams shaped a lot of that.

We have two new additions to the National Register [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 9] The first is the El Cortez in downtown Las Vegas on Fremont Street, which was built in 1941 and expanded in 1952. It has retained a lot of its historic character. If you want to stay there, you can still stay in a vintage room. There is also the Washoe County Library. The atrium is a remarkable part of this building. The outside of the building is very unassuming, but inside, the atrium is amazing, and really shows how you are bringing that outside in.

What I would like to do is bring to the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register, the importance that midcentury modern architecture holds as a cultural resource for us as Nevadans [([Exhibit K](#)), slide 10]. We understand a lot of our older history, but our more recent history, where we had so much growth, especially in southern Nevada, is an important aspect of what it means to be a Nevadan. I also encourage the Governor to establish a day of observance for midcentury modern architecture. We chose May 20, 2014, because it is the birthday of Betty Willis, who designed the "Fabulous Las Vegas" sign, and because May is preservation month. I have been speaking with the Sesquicentennial Committee, and at this point they seem very positive that we should be able to incorporate this day of observance into the sesquicentennial event.

Chair Daly:

Are there any questions from the Committee? Seeing none, I will tell you that you did a good job; I can tell this is a passion for you. With that, we will open the microphones to anyone in support. I see there are people in Las Vegas, so we will go there first.

Lance Kirk, Chair, Flamingo Club:

The Flamingo Club is a social organization which celebrates midcentury architecture and design of the 1950s and 1960s in Las Vegas. We have been celebrating the architecture and community of the mid-twentieth century for over five years. [Continued reading from prepared testimony ([Exhibit M](#)).]

The Flamingo Club supports [A.J.R. 7](#) and feels it is a collaborative step in the right direction for the state of Nevada.

Steve Evans, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

As a lover of good architecture and an aficionado of preservation, I, too, am here in support of this resolution.

In Las Vegas, we have long been known for imploding our past. But I think in the last few years, we have seen success in honoring and saving some of our great structures, and fortunately, some of those are the very structures that Assemblywoman Swank called out. This resolution specifically calls out the La Concha, the Paul R. Williams Google conch-shaped design, which Assemblywoman Swank discussed earlier, that was once the motel lobby and is now the portal to the Neon Museum. I am very proud to have had a part in that effort. The move was daunting, it was delicate, and it was expensive, but I will say it was a perfect fit, and the publicity alone probably would be in the tens of millions of dollars from all over the world. Part of the purpose of honoring that is to move our tourists north from the very populated Strip to the now-growing

downtown. It was an effort that, through a collaboration of funding, I think we will find the dollars were very well spent.

In Las Vegas, the homes of Paradise Palms are one shining example of an era. They are Rat Pack cool—Swank, if you will. We have pockets of midcentury modern architecture throughout the community and indeed in Reno, too, and some of them I am sure are not even known to many of us. We have public buildings, banks, et cetera, that dot our landscape throughout our state. The legislators in the northern part of the state have probably passed by the Church Fine Arts Complex on the University of Nevada, Reno campus on Virginia Street hundreds, if not thousands, of times. What is not known is that it, too, was built by a very famous group of architects, Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander. The next time you go, you might want to look at their wonderfully shaped tile mosaic in the courtyard right off of Virginia Street. It is a structure that may one day be threatened, and it is something that we really need to take a look at. It, too, is a great example of the era.

The other one Assemblywoman Swank mentioned was the Flora Dungan Humanities building at UNLV, built by Zick and Sharp. For me, there is a personal connection: I was there in 1973 at the ceremony opening the building. It was named for a former colleague of yours; if you march down the hallway in the Legislative Building, you will find Flora Dungan's picture. She was a legislator in the '60s, and was a member of the Board of Regents when she died in October of 1973. I could not be more pleased that this building is named for her and I hope that it stands for a long time.

There is a long list of great architects that we really need to honor and an inventory we need to create of some of these great buildings. I think there is economic value in cultural tourism, and in Las Vegas in particular; that Rat Pack era is something that everybody seeks to find. The little pieces that we do have, we would do well to honor.

A final note about Ms. Dungan: she, too, in 1964 commissioned a home which was built by an associate of Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander, and it is a fine, classic example of the era. I have been very proud to call it my home for 20 years. I thank you for your time in listening to my testimony, and it is my fervent hope that you pass this resolution.

Jack Levine, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a realtor here in Las Vegas and I specialize in midcentury modern homes in historic urban neighborhoods. It is very important that we get this word out.

My mother always told the story about when she arrived in Las Vegas in 1975, and the realtor who was showing her houses was apologizing for all the "ugly, flat-roofed homes." We had not started building the massive, sprawling suburbia yet. That agent did not understand that what was called modern then had moved out of favor, and we were starting into the era of stucco and tile roofs and cookie-cutter sameness, but my mother loved those flat-roofed houses, and so do I. Those are very often the houses that we are actually talking about right now. There are wonderful neighborhoods of them all over the central part of Las Vegas, because these were the homes that were being built at the time that we had our very first growth spurt where the town went from 50,000 people when my house was built in 1954 to double that population in just ten years.

These are the homes that were built for those people; they were built inexpensively, with simplicity. They were built for the masses. Some of them were custom homes, but many of them were tract homes, and over the last 50 or 60 years, those tract homes have all been customized and changed and fixed. What we are really afraid of here is that people who do not understand the architecture for what it was and its history and the style are coming in and ruining and destroying these homes. Every piece of knowledge that we can get out there, every means and method we have to spread the word that this is a style of architecture that is worth saving and cherishing, these are the neighborhoods and the homes that we do not want to have turned into suburban replications. Too many people are doing that right now.

I think what this resolution would do is help us spread the word of something that is worth cherishing. Steve used the phrase "cultural tourism." I get phone calls every weekend from people who are in town asking, "Where are the midcentury neighborhoods, where can I take a drive, what can I go see, what should I not miss?" I think we could have a really good economic boom out of midcentury modern cultural tourism as well. I encourage you to pass this resolution; I think it is one small cog in the overall midcentury modern preservation movement, but an important one.

Fred Hillerby, representing the American Institute of Architects:

We would like to thank Assemblywoman Swank for bringing forth this resolution recognizing the important contribution that architecture plays in the built environment here in Nevada. I would like to say that, on behalf of those architects, I urge your support.

Ronald M. James, Chair, National Park Service Advisory Board Landmarks Committee:

I recently retired as the State Historic Preservation Officer. I administered the office from the beginning of 1983 in the first months of the (Richard) Bryan Administration. I also serve as the chairman of the National Historic Landmark Committee. I was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Salazar to serve as a member of this advisory board for the National Park Service. I see this from a National Park Service point of view as much as anything. I think it is very important that this resolution be considered and I thank Assemblywoman Swank for bringing it forward. Joint resolutions can sometimes be frivolous and not carry a lot of weight, but this one could make a lot of difference.

Nevada's midcentury modern architecture is extremely important to the nation, and as we approach this 50-year benchmark, it is easy for resources to be lost. In the early 1980s when World War II was just celebrating its 40th anniversary, we began to realize that we were going to need to evaluate and preserve and, we hope, celebrate WWII-era resources. In that decade, we lost a B-17 crash site near Tonopah, which was pillaged by collectors, and the Wendover air station, most of which was in Utah, which was given away and demolished. It could have been an important tourist attraction for Wendover.

Nevada has some of the nation's best examples of midcentury architecture. It was celebrated in a very important book called *Learning from Las Vegas* by Robert Venturi. However, it is not just Las Vegas; as the Assemblywoman pointed out, there are northern examples of just how important these resources are. They become vulnerable as they get older and cross that 50-year threshold. That is when people say, "Well, it is time to get rid of them and move on," but a decade later, they say, "Why did we do that? These are really important."

Anything that can be done to celebrate these resources and bring the need for recognition to the attention of the National Park Service—believe me, this will help. This resolution will make a difference. Sending this on to the National Park Service and our congressional delegation to let them know that there is awareness that these resources need to be preserved is extremely important.

In 2005, I was in Scotland. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, which is one of the largest theater and arts festivals in the world, had as their logo for that year "Welcome to Fabulous Edinburgh," based on the "Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. It is internationally recognized; Las Vegas has done a fantastic job preserving that sign. Anything that can be done to underscore the importance of these resources, to give them a chance at survival so they can become the next generation's tourist attraction, will pay off, and it is a pretty easy thing to do.

Chair Daly:

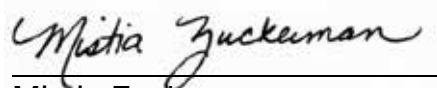
Assemblyman Hansen was commenting that we must be getting old, because he remembers working on some of those buildings when they went up. Is there any other testimony in support? Seeing none, we will open up the microphones to testimony in opposition. Seeing none, we will take testimony in neutral. Seeing none, we will close the hearing on Assembly Joint Resolution 7.

I will open the microphones to public comment. [There was none.] This meeting is adjourned [at 2 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Cheryl Williams
Recording Secretary



Mistia Zuckerman
Transcribing Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Skip Daly, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

Date: April 9, 2013

Time of Meeting: 1:03 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 483	C	Amelie Welden	Work Session Document
A.B. 264	D	Assemblyman Grady, Assembly District No. 38	Testimony
A.B. 264	E	Mikel Hettrick	Testimony
A.B. 264	F	Anne Hall	Testimony
A.B. 264	G	Patty Bumgarner	Testimony
A.B. 264	H	Gayle Weatherman	Testimony
A.B. 264	I	Gayle Weatherman	Photos
A.B. 264	J	Shannon Windle	Testimony
A.J.R. 7	K	Assemblywoman Swank	Presentation
A.J.R. 7	L	Historic Reno Preservation Society	Letter
A.J.R. 7	M	Lance Kirk	Testimony