

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Seventy-Seventh Session  
March 28, 2013**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Aaron D. Ford at 1:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2013, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada and to Chilton Circle Modular Conference Room, Great Basin College, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, Nevada 89801 [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Aaron D. Ford, Chair  
Senator Mark A. Manendo, Vice Chair  
Senator Tick Segerblom  
Senator James A. Settelmeyer  
Senator Pete Goicoechea

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Senatorial District No. 16  
Senator David R. Parks, Senatorial District No. 7  
Senator Michael Roberson, Senatorial District No. 20

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael J. Stewart, Policy Analyst  
Lynn Berry, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rob Buonamici, Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department  
of Wildlife  
Ed Lawson, Sparks Rotary Club  
Pamela Gartin, NoBearHuntNV  
Don Molde

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Catherine Smith

Jeremy Drew, Vice Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of  
Wildlife

Larry Johnson, President, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

Margaret Flint, Nevada Humane Society; Canine Rehabilitation Center and  
Sanctuary

Christine Schwamberger, Nevada Political Action for Animals

Dave Gowan

Dan Schinhofen, Vice Chair, Nye County Board of Commissioners

Michael Reese, President, Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife

James Thompson

Karen Layne, President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society

Trish Swain, TrailSafe Nevada

Graham Stafford, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club

Helen McCloskey

Pete McCloskey

Stephanie Myers

Stacia Newman, Nevada Political Action for Animals

Mitch Schneider, Nevada Humane Society

Caron Tayloe

Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals

Kristen Corral

Nancy Salazar, Nevada Political Action for Animals

Peggy Rew

Marjorie Sill

Scott Shane

Lori Larson

Beth Scott

Jean Perry-Jones

Amie Ruckman

Holly Haley, Nevada State Director, Humane Society of the United States

Carolyn Stark

Fred Voltz

Beverlee McGrath, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;  
Best Friends Animal Society; Nevada Humane Society; Northern Nevada  
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Nevada Political Action  
for Animals; Lake Tahoe Humane Society and Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals; Compassion Charity for Animals; Pet Network of  
Lake Tahoe; Wylie Animal Rescue Foundation; PawPac; Lake Tahoe Wolf  
Rescue

Walt Gardner

Joel Blakeslee, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife; Nevada Trappers Association;  
Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife

Jim Curran, Director, Nevada Trappers Association

Robert Brunner

Mike Cassidy

Jack Robb, Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife

Mark Jensen, State Director, Nevada Wildlife Services, United States  
Department of Agriculture

John Sullivan, Nevada Trappers Association

Rachel Anderson, Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife

Mike Olsen, Sage Hill Dairy; Churchill County Wildlife Advisory Board

Dave Stowater, Nevada Trappers Association

Paul Dixon, Chairman, Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Robert Gaudet, President, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.; Southern Nevada  
Coalition for Wildlife

Warren B. Hardy II, Humane Society of the United States

Nicole G. Paquette, Vice President of Wildlife Management, Humane Society of  
the United States

Chuck Callaway, Director of Intergovernmental Services, Las Vegas  
Metropolitan Police Department

D. Eric Spratley, Lieutenant, Washoe County Sheriff's Department; Washoe  
County Regional Animal Services

P. Michael Murphy, Coroner, Clark County

Sandra Noffsinger

Scott Shoemaker, Director, Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership

Zuzana Kukol

Jay Holt, DVM, Roos-N-More Zoo

Beau Ray

Jimmie Martin, Sierra Safari Zoo

John Potash, Close Encounters Wildlife Adventures, Sierra Nevada Academy of  
Kindred Ectotherms

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Tim Stoffel, Sierra Safari Zoo; Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership  
Valerie Holt, DVM, Roos-N-More Zoo  
Keith Evans, President, Cat House, Inc. dba Lion Habitat Ranch  
Heather Potash, Sierra Nevada Academy of Kindred Ectotherms  
David Boland  
Richard Hogan  
Tony Monda  
Richard Bilby  
Ken Foose, Exotic Pets  
Adam Ortega  
Mace Loftus  
Daniel Gray, Sierra Aquatics

**Chair Ford:**

We will be hearing four bills today. I will open the hearing on S.B. 181.

**SENATE BILL 181**: Revises provisions relating to fishing. (BDR 45-178)

**Senator Ben Kieckhefer (Senatorial District No.16):**

I was approached by the Sparks Rotary Club to promote legislation to provide a free fishing day for adults with developmental disabilities at the Sparks Marina. There is a provision in statute to issue a special permit for groups. This did not adequately address the needs of the Rotary Club. I have proposed Amendment 7798 ([Exhibit C](#)). Section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (g), would add a list of groups eligible to receive special fishing permits. This is for adults, as children already fish for free.

In Section 1, subsection 2, paragraph (e) of S.B. 181 would be removed. It limits the number of people who can fish. We felt that number was too restrictive. It would be unfortunate to recruit a lot of people for an event and then have to turn them away and not be able to participate, due to the restriction.

In our amendment 7798, we propose to remove language in section 1, subsection 3 limiting the number of permits issued each year. We have spoken with the officials at the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and they indicated the restriction was not necessary.

Additional language in section 1, subsection 5 would allow NDOW to expedite the application process for the special fishing permit if special circumstances exist.

The goal is to encourage people to fish and participate in the wildlife activities in our State.

**Rob Buonamici (Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department of Wildlife):**

The NDOW likes to promote and foster these types of activities. The amendment will make it easier to do so. We agree that section 1, subsection 4 be changed to require only one person in the group to have a license. This will allow parents who do not have fishing licenses to still help out.

**Senator Kieckhefer:**

I would like to introduce Ed Lawson. He is a member of the Sparks Rotary Club that sponsors the free fishing. He is also a member of the Sparks City Council, but is not serving in that capacity today.

**Ed Lawson (Sparks Rotary Club):**

We have approximately 2,500 children who participate in the free fishing day. We stock the Legends/Sparks Marina with 7,000-8,000 fish. We give away 2,000 fishing poles. There is no cost to the community. We raise funds through our Rotary Club. Last year, we reached out to the special needs community. The current permit is valid for 15 people; we had 65 attendees. That is the reason we are requesting the amendment. We anticipate 300 special needs participants this year.

**Chair Ford:**

What would constitute the special circumstances referred to in section 1, subsection 5, for an expedited application?

**Senator Kieckhefer:**

An example would be if a group forgets or does not allow enough time to secure a permit. We do not want to create barriers for people to use the resources of the State.

SENATOR MANENDO MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 181.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Chair Ford:**

I will close the hearing on S.B. 181 and open the hearing on S.B. 371.

**SENATE BILL 371**: Prohibits a person from intentionally feeding any species of wildlife other than a wild bird. (BDR 45-838)

**Senator Ben Kieckhefer (Senatorial District No.16):**

I am introducing S.B. 371 at the request of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, NDOW. I have proposed Amendment 7787 ([Exhibit D](#)). This bill stems from concerns, especially in Incline Village, about individuals leaving food out to entice bears into the residential areas. This bill proposes to make it illegal to feed wildlife other than bird species in Nevada. It does not address horses. It does not prohibit personal bird feeders or people who want to feed birds in the park.

**Rob Buonamici (Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department of Wildlife):**

Senate Bill 371 allows backyard bird feeders. It does restrict intentional feeding of other wildlife, such as bears and deer. There is an education component for the first offense. The person must be informed, in writing, of the behavior that constitutes the violation and penalties for future violations. Subsequent offenses are punishable by fines up to \$500.

The emphasis is the intent to attract and feed wildlife. Section 1, subsection 4 of the Amendment 7787, [Exhibit D](#), would exclude the use of bait for fishing. It would also exclude employees of NDOW or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), intentionally feeding any species of wildlife for any purpose while carrying out their duties.

This will address bear problems in the State and the deer problem in Elko County.

**Chair Ford:**

Has the chumming language been removed?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

Yes, it has.

**Chair Ford:**

The language in section 1, subsection 3, paragraph (a) of Amendment 7787 seems vague to me. What is an accepted agricultural or livestock practice?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

We are comfortable with the language being vague. This bill is not attempting to address agricultural practices.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

Does this bill prohibit feeding fish on your property?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

This would preclude the feeding of fish, as they are considered wildlife. We could offer an amendment.

**Senator Manendo:**

What about chipmunks and rabbits? People on picnics often feed them. This could be a huge impact and could create a slippery slope.

**Mr. Buonamici:**

I agree with Senator Manendo. That was certainly not the intent of this bill to prohibit feeding of chipmunks. The game wardens do not intend to look in peoples' backyards.

**Chair Ford:**

We are putting statutes into place that are subject to interpretation. Is the main purpose of this bill is to stop the bear feeding?

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

What if we indicated we are concerned about large wildlife, animals over 100 pounds? What are our specific problems?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

The primary problems are bears and deer. We could change the wording to reflect animals classified as big game. We would have to start over.

**Chair Ford:**

I see an amendment from NDOW. Do you have a problem with changing the language to "may" instead of "shall" in the section 1, subsection 2?

**Senator Kieckhefer:**

We did try to steer away from being punitive. We specifically stated on the first offense you will not be cited. We can work on it.

**Pamela Gartin (NoBearHuntNV):**

We support the spirit of S.B. 371. Would licensed wildlife care facilities be exempt for feeding wildlife in the case of injured animals? We are supporters of diversionary feeding in extreme circumstances. In cases of extreme drought, bears tend to come into populated areas. Diversionary feeding helps keep them out of populated areas and survive the drought.

**Don Molde:**

I am in support of the intent of S.B. 371. If a person persists using a garbage can that was not bear secure, had been advised several times of that fact and bears were attracted to that site, could that be interpreted by this bill as an intentional feeding?

I agree with diversionary feeding. Although horses are not included in this bill, I have used diversionary feeding for horses in the Virginia Range to keep them away from residential areas. Other states have diversionary feeding of wildlife. I would hope this bill does not preclude diversionary feeding of wildlife if circumstances arise that may warrant it.

**Catherine Smith:**

I support S.B. 371. I agree with diversionary feeding. I would like this option available.



**Jeremy Drew (Vice Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife):**

I am speaking for myself today. I am in favor of S.B. 317. I agree the language could restrict it to big game species.

**Larry Johnson (President, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife):**

We support S.B. 371. The true intent here is not to feed bears. In 1972, ranchers were feeding deer herds in an extremely bad winter. Diversionary feeding should be conducted under the direction of NDOW, and they are already exempt in this bill. Private citizens should not be allowed to feed bears.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

Could we say a person was allowed to feed wildlife if a drought was declared by the Governor?

**Mr. Johnson:**

I do not think that is necessary. I think there is already an agricultural exemption.

**Margaret Flint (Nevada Humane Society; Canine Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary):**

We oppose S.B. 371. It is too broad. We feed feral cat colonies. We also trap animals that we need to bait to relocate. Many people have a lot of property onto which animals wander. I would like to see an exemption for private property.

**Chair Ford:**

I believe the problem we are trying to address is bears and deer. Do you have a problem with that?

**Ms. Flint:**

No, I do not. I want to be on the record we oppose this bill as written.

**Christine Schwamberger (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

I oppose S.B. 371 as written. It is overly broad. I would support it for bears and deer. Would this be better as a local ordinance?

**Dave Gowan:**

I am opposed to S.B. 371, specifically regarding diversionary feeding. The Nevada Houndsmen Association would be against it because it represents baiting. Feeding animals food not natural for wildlife to consume could encourage the same type of problems we have.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you oppose the ban on feeding bears and deer only?

**Mr. Gowan:**

We favor that measure.

**Dan Schinhofen (Vice Chair, Nye County Board of Commissioners):**

I understand the intent of S.B. 371, but if it passes, my wife would be a criminal because she feed rabbits on our property regularly. I agree with making it big game or even leaving it up to local entities.

**Michael Reese (President, Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

We are opposed to S.B. 371 as written. We like the spirit and intent of it, but it should be a municipal code. In Las Vegas, we are aware that people feed coyotes and bobcats. Children also feed popcorn to ducks in parks. It needs clarification. If you add bears and deer, we would also like to add coyotes.

**James Thompson:**

This bill pertains to wild animals. There should be a common-sense approach to this issue. I would ask you to consider including horses. People stop in Wheeler Pass to see the horses and feed them apples. The horses are often hit by cars. The key word is wild. There is a variety of squirrels that are indigenous only to the Mt. Charleston area. It is not advisable to feed these squirrels. They need to remain wild. You do a disservice to these wild animals when you feed them.

**Karen Layne (President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society):**

We support S.B. 371. However, we have an issue with feeding coyotes. It is somewhat broad. It sounds like this Committee is looking at larger animals.

**Chair Ford:**

I will close the hearing on S.B. 371 and open the hearing on S.B. 213.

**SENATE BILL 213**: Revises certain provisions relating to the trapping of wild animals. (BDR 45-450)

**Senator David R. Parks (Senatorial District No. 7):**

Senate Bill 213 deals with trapping issues; registration of traps, removal of dangerous traps, inspection of traps and marking traps that are in place. Ms. Trish Swain will introduce the bill.

**Trish Swain (TrailSafe Nevada):**

Traps are indiscriminate. They are unmarked and hidden and cause immense animal suffering. Our concern is public safety. We are not here to end trapping. I have provided a presentation ([Exhibit E](#)). Incidents happen with pets. Page 5 of [Exhibit E](#) shows a live fox caught in a trap. The law needs to be clear for citizens to be able to deal with these types of situations.

The State of Nevada has received a D- score from "Born Free USA's State Trapping Report Card."

Additional photos show traps. The steel jaw leghold trap is the most frequently used trap. The opening is 3/16 inch, which is said to be the best practice. This is narrower than my border collie's leg. Page 18 of the presentation shows how to open the trap. It looks easy. However, it is not easy when an animal is caught in the trap.

Additional photos show an animal caught in a snare trap. It is a noose, and as the animal struggles, the noose tightens. He strangles, the head begins to swell and the animal suffers. Noose traps are difficult to open once they have tightened.

Page 22 through 25, [Exhibit E](#), shows the conibear style trap. This scares us the most. They are set in water to trap beaver and muskrats. It is supposed to kill them instantly, but that is problematic.

The M-44 cyanide devices are put in the ground. There is an attractant on the nozzle; the animal will sniff or push on the nozzle and sodium cyanide is shot into its mouth.

In 2010, an incident at Cottonwood Park in Sparks received media attention. This is a family water recreation park. Pages 31 through 35, [Exhibit E](#), show

a skunk and a cat caught in a trap. The skunk was well known in the park. He was shot the next day by NDOW because he was an unprotected species. From these incidents, we learned there were no specific laws protecting congested areas from traps.

Pages 36 through 39, [Exhibit E](#), contain additional stories of cats and dogs after being caught in traps. Page 41, [Exhibit E](#), shows a trap a dog on a leash got caught in that was located 5 feet from the road

Animals are trapped in incredible numbers for their pelts. Our wildlife belongs to all of us in the State. People are profiting from trapping and selling pelts. Page 45, [Exhibit E](#), shows the prices pelts sold for at the Fallon Fur Sale Auction.

We went to many hearings in search of reasonable regulations. When S.B. No. 226 of the 76th Session passed, regulations were enacted regarding trapping in congested areas in Washoe and Clark Counties. There are numerous exemptions to the regulation from the Commission.

The bill requests mandatory registration on traps and trap visitation every 24 hours instead of the current 96 hours. Thirty-three states have 24-hour visitation and five of them are comparable to Nevada in that they are large geographically. We also are requesting that the public be able to tamper with an illegally set trap when there is obvious risk of injury or death to persons, companion or service animals.

The public needs adequate warning that there are traps in an area, such as flags, signs, or some type of notice. A reasonable person would leave an area if they knew traps were there.

The Sierra Club is not backing [S.B. 213](#). In addition, S.B. No. 226 of the 76th Session did not specify what the regulations would be in Clark and Washoe Counties or in rural areas.

Citizens are afraid to enjoy their own private property or utilize open areas in fear of unseen traps. For NDOW to catch illegally placed traps and violators, they have to do stakeouts.

This is a humane measure. The animals are in pain and fear. The public is amenable to being warned about traps, and people would like to be able to let their dogs off their leashes to enjoy the outdoors.

**Chair Ford:**

The registration issue makes sense to me. The issue of allowing the public to tamper with a trap is a concern. Could someone get hurt?

**Ms. Swain:**

You are quite right. People have been hurt trying to liberate their pets, mostly by the pets biting them because they are frantic. The word tamper is not a good word. It indicates malicious mischief, and that is not our intent. When you are faced with injury or death, you must be entitled to do something about the trap and still be within the law. We are talking about emergencies, not vandalism.

**Chair Ford:**

Are you referring to the language in section 4, subsection 2, where it talks about a trap creating an immediate and obvious risk of injury or death to any person, pet or service animal?

**Ms. Swain:**

Absolutely.

**Chair Ford:**

If I am with my dog that is either on or off the leash, and I see a trap, why would I not just move my dog away from the trap?

**Ms. Swain:**

If you can, that would be ideal. We will have testimony regarding this issue. Sometimes dogs get away from you.

**Chair Ford:**

In that circumstance, do you think it would be easier for a layperson to tamper with a trap than to corral the pet?

**Ms. Swain:**

Corralling the pet is ideal, but that does not always happen.

**Chair Ford:**

What is your interpretation if a person tampers with the trap to protect his or her dog and they get hurt in a legally set trap? Is there any recourse, or is it an assumption of the risk?

**Ms. Swain:**

Most people whose dogs have been hurt and have incurred large veterinarian bills just take the consequences. I think registration on traps will help with this issue.

**Chair Ford:**

Why should the owner of a legally set trap be concerned about being sued by a person who has been hurt when tampering with his trap?

**Ms. Swain:**

I think it is the nature of traps. They are hidden, camouflaged and indiscriminate.

**Chair Ford:**

Are there other provisions of the law that allow for liability in circumstances like this?

**Ms. Swain:**

It would be a civil suit the person who was hurt would have to pursue. This is where registration numbers could help.

**Ms. Flint:**

If a trap was set by law in accordance with S.B. 213, a flag would be up and we would not be there to begin with.

**Chair Ford:**

A flag seems like an opportunity to tamper with the traps. What if a child sees a flag, goes to see and then gets caught in the trap? Can you tell me why flags are a good idea?

**Ms. Swain:**

If I see the flag or some form of warning, I will not be in that area.

**Chair Ford:**

Where do you envision the flagging taking place? Where should the warning be to alert you that traps are present?

**Ms. Swain:**

The Forest Service, USDA, uses the kiosks at the beginning of trails to alert people there are bears in the area. Nevada does have open country. Perhaps a flag on the trap itself would work. Otherwise, how would people know? A reasonable person will avoid an area marked as containing traps.

**Chair Ford:**

I would be interested to hear the opposition in regard to the flagging. There may be some compromise available.

The visitation hours to traps present a concern. Why does Nevada have 96 hours and Arizona only has 24 hours?

**Ms. Swain:**

We have been told it is for trapper convenience. The State is large and the trap lines can stretch for 50 miles or more.

**Chair Ford:**

I received an email stating trappers would be criminals if they caught the flu and could not get to their traps in 24 hours. Is there a number between 24 and 96 you could accept?

**Ms. Swain:**

Any number lower than 96 would be an improvement. However, other states do manage with 24 hours. It is a value judgment. What is more important—convenience for trappers so they can kill more animals for their pelts or that animals suffer less? Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit F](#)).

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Trappers are seeking fur-bearing animals typically in the winter season. Traps are usually not there in the summer unless they are addressing a predatory issue.

**Ms. Flint:**

I have provided you a summary of reports made to TrailSafe detailing trapping incidents with people and pets ([Exhibit G](#)). The report reflects hikers, dogs and cats trapped, traps set on private property without the owner's consent and wild animals maimed trying to chew their way out of traps.

I camp and hike, and I have two sporting dogs. I go off road, and I am concerned about the conibear trap. I would like safeguards in place to protect those of us who like to be outdoors enjoying the sunshine, just like the trappers.

**Chair Ford:**

I want to know how many trappers use the conibear traps.

**Graham Stafford (Conservation Chair, Sierra Club):**

The Sierra Club opposes all type of grab bearing traps. I am an outdoor advocate. I support S.B. 213. When I go into the backcountry, I do not know if traps are there. If I saw a flag, I would leave the area. Trapping is a business. Trappers should be regulated to check their traps sooner than 96 hours, which is 4 days. If you get the flu, get someone else to check your traps.

**Helen McCloskey:**

I am a farmer in Northern California. My husband and I also own a ranch in New Mexico. We drive between the two holdings on a quarterly basis. We are also hikers. We were hiking in Nevada last year on public land when one of our dogs was trapped in a steel leghold trap. We tried to open it, unsuccessfully at first. I went to the car for our M-1 carbine to try to open the trap. That did not work. I looked again at the trap and discovered it was not too complicated to open. I opened the trap and released the dog. I was able to sedate the dog, as I travel with narcotic painkillers for the dogs. We got her to a vet 10 hours later.

I do not understand why people are allowed to set traps on public lands for profit. I am not able to supplement my income by planting a garden on public land. I find it appalling that people can supplement their income on my public land in a manner that endangers all the other users.

**Chair Ford:**

What about traps for predatory purposes?



**Ms. McCloskey:**

We have coyotes, badgers and beavers on our ranch and farm. We have learned alternatives to trapping.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you think we should use traps to deal with predatory issues?

**Ms. McCloskey:**

I do not think these traps are appropriate on public land. There are alternative techniques for relocating or eliminating predators. I include hunting as an admissible means. Hunting and trapping have nothing in common. Hunting is species and season specific. If you are accurate, death is immediate. Animals feel pain.

**Senator Settelmeyer:**

I am a farmer and rancher also. There are times I need to eliminate predators on my land. This bill is indiscriminate. It applies anywhere you have a trap. Would you agree it should be limited only to public lands?

**Ms. McCloskey:**

I would be inclined to limit it to public lands, although I would support it on private lands. Techniques are available to coexist with so-called predators. We need to change our viewpoint. The fact that we object to our animals being trapped and feeling pain but we do not object to a bobcat being in a trap for 4 days is strange. Anyone placing so many traps that they cannot make rounds in 24 hours has too many traps. I urge you to pass S.B. 213.

I agree with the flagging idea. It will not deter the target animals. The traps are camouflaged. Traps can be on any land in your State. Does that mean I cannot hike anywhere? That is not fair. There are many other users of public land. I think you need to keep them in mind.

**Pete McCloskey:**

I realize some of the ranches are large in Nevada and it may be hard to check every trap in 24 hours, but dying in agony does not need to happen. I support S.B. 213.

**Stephanie Myers:**

I have provided written testimony ([Exhibit H](#)). I was mountain biking with my golden retriever on Macks Canyon Road in the Lee Canyon area of Mt. Charleston. Macks Canyon is a 4-mile dirt road used for biking, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and photography, and it is a designated campsite area. Suddenly my dog was gone. After much searching, we found her in a trap meant for bobcats and foxes. She was bloody and dehydrated. My neighbor was able to release her from the trap. We took her immediately to the vet who performed surgery. The vet removed five teeth as she had tried to bite the metal trap. She lived only one more year.

I was unaware of any trapping in this area since it is only 40 minutes away from Las Vegas. There were no signs or flags to warn me of any danger. If there had been, I would have gone elsewhere. There were no signs or notes about trapping in the visitor center or on a tourist flyer.

After the incident, I called NDOW. The warden said no law had been broken, as Macks Canyon trail is not considered a road. Even at 200 feet from that road, the new rules would not have made the trap illegal. The game warden demanded that I return the trap, although he had no idea whose trap it was. The trap had no identification.

Trappers will say I should have had the dog on a leash. My dog was under strict voice command. Leashes are not required in all parts of rural Nevada. The Spring Mountains have over two million visitors each year.

Trapping is a business and involves lands and animals that belong to all of us. Traps are concealed. They are roadside bombs. The 96-hour visitation limit is too long. The location of traps must be known. Last year, we petitioned the Mt. Charleston Town Advisory Board and the Mountain Springs Citizen's Advisory Council, [Exhibit H](#), to pass statements asking for a 1-mile boundary between traps and all federal and State lands, residential and commercial buildings and recreation trails. We also requested all traps be identified and inspected every 24 hours.

**Karen Layne (President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society):**

This issue has been ongoing since the last Session. At that time, there was a bill dealing with trapping in congested areas and visitation. The Commission spent considerable time listening to concerns in southern Nevada regarding the

Mt. Charleston area. They did resolve the Mt. Charleston issue by making some areas off-limits to trapping.

Violations of the 96-hour visitation limit are one of the highest frequency violations in trapping, according to Nevada game wardens. Trappers have a tendency to exceed the 96-hour visitation limit.

Registration is important. Our organization traps feral cats, and our traps are all identified. We trap these cats to spay and neuter them. The NDOW should know to whom the traps belong.

Trapping is a business about making money. If the trappers were not making money off the pelts, they would not be trapping. We support S.B. 213.

**Stacia Newman (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

Much of the general public does not know fur trapping is still going on. Most people think it phased out in the early 1900s. It is up to Nevada to protect our visitors and residents.

Rules and regulations should apply across the board. Identification is important. Real estate agents use lock boxes on houses. In the last two years, no lock boxes have been stolen. It is hard to accept that the reason identification cannot be on traps is that they will be stolen.

**Chair Ford:**

I am not certain that is the contention. The research I have done suggests the concern is of misuse and illegally set traps.

**Ms. Newman:**

Flags are a warning sign in various arenas such as housing and construction. I understand that traps are not picked up after the season is over. That creates an issue of live traps all year round. Governor Brian Sandoval announced a new program called Discover Your Nevada, created by the Commission on Tourism, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. It is designed to keep our residents here as well as to promote tourism. The flyers show people off the beaten path in primitive areas. Traps should not be a worry.

**Mitch Schneider (Nevada Humane Society):**

I support S.B. 213. I currently train service dogs for disabled veterans. I agree the average person does not have the verbal control they should in this situation. This is similar to booby-trapping your home. It is illegal. Booby-trapping public lands would not have public support. Trapping needs to be seriously regulated. A solution could be to have two different zones. One zone could be designated where extra precautions should be taken by the trappers. In the other zone, in the outlying areas, the dog and pet owners need to more mindful as they would be for rattlesnakes. The 96-hour visitation is unconscionable.

**Caron Tayloe:**

I support S.B. 213. I was introduced to the wilderness and trapping as an adolescent by family members. There was always concern that the children not be around animals caught in traps. I have attended several NDOW meetings. At one meeting in Elko, trapping was discussed in terms of number of animals harvested. At no time in this meeting was scientific evidence produced to support trapping. There is no science to support the 96-hour visitation. There is evidence to show that animals experience pain and stress.

There was no mention of discouraging the ritualistic torture that trappers inflict on trapped animals. There was no mention about how identification could help law enforcement or citizen safety issues. When these issues were brought up by the general public, they were ignored.

As an avid outdoors person, I would like to see markers in all areas where trapping is occurring and the reduction of visitation hour limits to reduce the animal suffering.

**Don Molde:**

The 96-hour visitation issue is not new. This has been brought to the public's attention since the late 1970s. Every Commission meeting has refused to do anything about this matter. The system does not work for us. The 96-hour visitation has nothing to do with animal concern; it is for trapper convenience.

**Chair Ford:**

Did someone on the Commission say that, or did you surmise it?

**Mr. Molde:**

This is my surmise based on 35 years of watching the Commission and NDOW. Trappers occupy a unique place in the sportsperson's hierarchy. The sports enthusiasts support trappers. If the freedoms are removed from trapping, some of them believe it is a slippery slope and other restrictions will follow, like limits on shotguns or fishing poles.

The way they kill wildlife is exempt from animal cruelty laws in this State. The public is usually outvoted 7 to 2 on the Commission, based upon its composition. I have been involved with this for 35 years. I have nowhere else to go but to the courts for a legal issue or you, the Legislature, as a last resort. Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit I](#)).

You can buy a conibear trap at Scheels for \$19. Anyone can buy this trap. This will kill a dog in a minute. I also have a snare that is used to strangle animals. A normal wire cutter will not cut through this snare.

**Gina Greisen (Nevada Voters for Animals):**

I support S.B. 213. I echo Mr. Molde's comments. We have been fighting this battle at the local levels and at the Commission for a long time. We feel we have gotten nowhere. I am not against hunting. I am not a member of any national organization. I am a fourth-generation Nevadan, and I represent Nevada voters.

The 96-hour trap visitation time is ridiculous. Many surrounding states have 24- to 48-hour visitation, not 4 days. It has been impossible to change these regulations because the county advisory boards have so many trappers on them.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you think it is all right to allow a member of the general public to tamper with a trap, and what should the outcome be if that person gets hurt tampering with a legally set trap?

**Ms. Greisen:**

There are penalties for tampering with a trap, but there are no penalties to trappers for illegally setting traps. The public is at risk. We were out in public land in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. According to federal regulations, trapping is not allowed in that area, but we encountered traps in that area.

**Chair Ford:**

Did you say there is no penalty for illegally setting a trap?

**Ms. Greisen:**

Yes, except for 200 feet from the roadway according to Chief Game Warden Buonamici. I asked Chief Buonamici if we found out to whom the traps belong, what could happen? He said there is nothing in the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) prohibiting traps from being set there.

**Chair Ford:**

What do you envision happening to a person who tampers with a legally set trap and subsequently gets hurt?

**Ms. Greisen:**

A small fine would be assessed, just like those imposed on the trappers who do not check their traps every 96 hours.

**Kristen Corral:**

I support S.B. 213. Trapping should be regulated. The bill is fair. I agree with previous testifiers.

**Nancy Salazar (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

My family enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking in the Mt. Charleston area and other areas in Nevada. I am concerned that my son or dog may be a victim of one of these unseen traps. I support S.B. 213.

**Peggy Rew:**

I am here to talk about people who set traps illegally on private property. This happened to Kim and Phil Hendrick. The Hendricks own 110 acres in Antelope Valley. They have 18 visible no trespassing signs, but they still have found numerous traps on their property. They are concerned for their dogs on their own property.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you have any idea how frequently traps are set on private property without permission?

**Ms. Rew:**

The warden said it happens often. People are afraid to report it for fear of retaliation.

**Chair Ford:**

Are there penalties for that type of illegal trapping?

**Ms. Rew:**

Penalties do not amount to much. They can be fined for lack of visitation or trespassing. When people apply for licenses or wish to own a gun, there are tests they have to pass. We are screened at the Humane Society to see if we are capable of caring for a kitten. There is no accountability or liability for traps. No one knows to whom the trap belongs.

**Marjorie Sill:**

It is very important to have regulations for trapping. I am also concerned about pets and children. I used to hike in a campground in the Mt. Rose area where I saw traps set just outside the campground. I reported them to the forest service. However, children could have been trapped just because they are curious. I also think trappers should check their traps much sooner than 96 hours.

**Chair Ford:**

I am getting the impression that there are no regulations on trapping. That may be incorrect. Are there regulations on trapping?

**Christine Schwamberger (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

There is a half-page in the NRS on trapping. We are speaking of police power. We need reasonable regulations for the health, safety, welfare and morals of society.

This is my third big animal hearing. I am stricken by how seldom animal cruelty is taken into consideration. We see egregious pictures at the beginning of the hearings, and then we proceed to forget all about them entirely. Police power takes into account morals, and I include animal cruelty in that category. The egregious brutality of trapping needs to be weighed in your considerations. That is what motivates the public. I cannot emphasize this enough. This is not a minor emotional issue. The three bills in which I have been involved, horse tripping, bear hunting and trapping, are all egregiously cruel activities. It seems

that we, the testifiers, are the only ones who acknowledge the cruelty. I have not heard any Committee members, with great respect gentlemen, acknowledge the cruelty involved in these activities.

Trapping is outside of normal activities of normal people. It becomes surreal and abstract. I am not sure the cruelty sinks in to a lot of people. I would ask you to take five minutes and consider what the animals are enduring—utter terror and excruciating pain for up to 96 hours. The conibear trap does not always kill instantly. It takes 30 minutes for a beaver to drown.

Chair Ford, your questions about public injury and tampering tell me these traps have no business on public lands. We are talking about minimal regulations such as identifying the trapper connected with the trap. This is an unregulated activity. The only way the game warden can catch the trappers is by a stakeout. I have a report from the Nevada Trappers Association showing the number of pelts and the sales of these pelts ([Exhibit J](#)). A conservative total of the sales is \$1,321,439. There were 5,449 pelts sold. If you multiply that number by 96 hours in traps, you get 21,793 hours of animal suffering.

Trapping is a business. Unlike other businesses, trappers do not require a business license or insurance, nor do they pay taxes. They are unaccountable to the State. Senate Bill 213 would be a few small steps forward.

**Chair Ford:**

I am somewhat offended by your testimony. Just because this Committee does not express it like you do does not mean we do not have concern for the animals.

Let us go back to the horse tripping hearing. I asked you to turn the video off because it was hard to bear. It is not as though we do not have concern, but it is not the only concern. We are elected by people in this State to try to make the best decisions possible. We listen to all sides of an issue. Just because we disagree does not mean we are disregarding it. I do not think it is lost on this Committee that it could be our dog. I appreciate your fervor, but we are charged with a different passion of making the best decisions possible.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

I found your testimony insulting. My dog died in a trap. You knew that, and yet you still said what you did. He was dead in 20 minutes. Changing this bill to



24 hours would not have saved his life. What is the average time it takes an animal to die in a trap?

**Ms. Schwamberger:**

I have no idea.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

Far less than 24 hours...

**Ms. Schwamberger:**

That is not necessarily true. I apologize and did not mean to insult anyone. I just had not heard any questions from any of you regarding this.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

The trappers are required to have a trapping license. They have to buy cat tags. Every pelt has to be tagged. Do you think gas is free? There is a cost for trapping. The money they receive offsets what they do for recreation. Very few trappers are good enough to make a lot of money trapping. Trapping is usually done by sportspersons who like to be outdoors for recreation. It is a skill.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you support every aspect of the bill?

**Ms. Schwamberger:**

Absolutely.

**Scott Shane:**

I support S.B. 213. Last Thanksgiving I came upon two carcasses approximately one-quarter mile from my home. These carcasses were professionally skinned. One was a bobcat, and one was a coyote. My wife is a veterinarian. She says there have been numerous studies affirming that all animals suffer pain.

**Lori Larson:**

I live in Palomino Valley. Our nearest neighbor is a mile away. Our dog was caught in a leghold trap on a neighboring property. There are fences, but the cattle often tear them down. When my husband went to look for the dog, he almost got caught in a trap. He was not looking for traps. He was looking for our dog. The traps were not marked. I support marking traps.

We know the trappers did not return for 5 days, as there was snow and we could see the tracks. I also support stricter visitation times. This was on private property with "No Hunting" signs posted. We do not know for sure if the trappers had permission, but we think not.

**Beth Scott:**

The 96-hour rule is cruel. My dog was caught in a trap and dumped over our fence after about 48 hours in a trap. I wiped blood off the dashboard as I rushed him to the vet. I had to wait 3 days before I knew whether he would live. We watch him limp and suffer incontinence caused by frostbite. The traps were in Carson City where it is illegal. They were within 750 feet of my back yard. Flags would not have helped in my case, as he was a puppy and slipped through a hole in the fence. The traps are baited. There is a reason why dogs head into the traps.

There is no registration on the traps. Animal control cannot sit on traps to try to wait for the trappers. I support S.B. 213.

**Jean Perry-Jones:**

I support S.B. 213. I have three friends whose dogs were caught in traps. This resulted in the early deaths of all three dogs trying to chew their way out of the traps.

The trappers in this room are conscientious and would support a lot of items in this bill. These trappers are not the ones causing the problems. Identifying traps is accountability and a health and safety precaution.

We need to be fiscally responsible and not have the game wardens incur overtime by implementing a stakeout. We need to be proactive, not reactive.

Flagging the traps will help people, not necessarily animals. The 24-hour checking of traps is important. Trapping is a sport, and checking the traps in 24 hours is not unreasonable. It is my right to spring a trap if my dog is caught in it.

**Amie Ruckman:**

I support S.B. 213. I will be referring to my presentation ([Exhibit K](#)). We had two puppies we often took to the South Valleys Regional Sports Complex to run and play. One got caught in a baited coyote box trap. There was a snare trap

inside the box. When my husband tried to release the dog, she turned and got caught in the snare. When he realized he was not going to be able to release her, he went to the truck to get pliers to cut the snare. He had to perform rescue breathing on her. He was able to revive her. The trap was hidden from view not too far from the children's play area.

**Chair Ford:**

Was it near the children's playground?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

It was about 200 yards from their playground. We cut the three snare traps that were on the fence. There was a sign on the trap saying it was an authorized trap. However, it was inside a public park.

We warned other dog owners in the park that there were traps in the area. We also went public with our testimony. We received a lot of hate mail. All we wanted to do was take our dogs for a walk.

**Holly Haley (Nevada State Director, Humane Society of the United States):**

We support S. B. 213.

**Senator Manendo:**

Whose trap was it?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

His name is David Fulton.

**Senator Manendo:**

Is he a trapper?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

He had a trapping license. According to Washoe County, he was not allowed to set the traps in the park. We did not pursue legal action against him. We went to court with him. This was heard by a judge because he wanted to have the fines waived.

**Senator Manendo:**

How did you find out who owned the trap?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

I called the phone number on the trap.

**Chair Ford:**

Was that a known place for coyote problems?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

Mr. Fulton's dog was attacked and its neck broken by a coyote. He was retaliating against coyotes.

**Chair Ford:**

Had the coyote had been in that same area?

**Ms. Ruckman:**

Yes. Apparently, there were multiple sightings. He told people about it, and nothing was done.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

I think you can legally bait a box trap. It is not an infraction.

**Ms. Ruckman:**

No, but with wild game it is.

**Carolyn Stark:**

I support S.B. 213. In the 2011-2012 season there were 1,085 trapping licenses sold out of a population of 2.7 million. The Fallon fur sale is just part of the picture. In 2011-2012, 15,000 animals were caught in the traps. Eight states do not require trap registration. Nevada is one of these states. Sixty-seven percent of states require 24-hour visitation. Alaska and Montana do not have any visitation mandates. Wisconsin is the only other state with 96 hours like Nevada. Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit L](#)).

**Fred Voltz:**

I have submitted written testimony ([Exhibit M](#)) in support of S.B. 213. You will hear from the opponents of this bill that trappers can self-regulate. That is a fallacy. People who encounter traps should be able to remove a trapped companion or animal without legal consequences. When you are in the wilderness, looking for a park ranger or other help is not an option. People have

no incentive to interrupt lawfully set traps unless they pose an imminent safety risk.

We register vehicles to establish property rights and assign legal liability. Trappers should report their traps as stolen so that liability is correctly assigned.

The traps are capable of great harm. It is hard for wildlife to endure the cruelty.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

I need some clarification. Did you say if your dog got caught in a trap, it was illegal for you to remove him?

**Mr. Voltz:**

Presently, that is the way it is. It is considered private property.

**Beverlee McGrath (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Best Friends Animal Society; Nevada Humane Society; Northern Nevada Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Nevada Political Action for Animals; Lake Tahoe Humane Society and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Compassion Charity for Animals; Pet Network of Lake Tahoe; Wylie Animal Rescue Foundation; PawPac; Lake Tahoe Wolf Rescue):**

This bill is not prohibiting trapping or specific types of traps we consider humane. It is not eliminating predator control. We are trying to set some standards. Trapping is a business. The trappers will say they are helping with predator control. There are other ways of eliminating predators. I support S.B. 213.

**Catherine Smith:**

I support S.B. 213. I am especially supportive of 24-hour visitation. Mounting evidence says killing small carnivores can increase rodent abundance and decrease biodiversity, which will cause an increase in disease, such as hantavirus and Lyme disease. Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit N](#)).

**Pamela Gartin (NoBearHuntNV):**

I support S.B. 213. Current trapping regulations favor the efficiency and convenience of trappers at the expense of public safety, the welfare of wildlife and the ecosystem.

When animals are used in medical and agricultural sciences, we have established laws that limit the efficiency of research in order to reduce suffering. The moral obligation to minimize the suffering of animals used by humans is almost universally accepted in our society. Trapping an animal for up to 4 days without food or water, being exposed to the elements or predators causes extreme suffering.

Targeted predator control is useful on ranches and cases of nuisance wildlife. Indiscriminate predator control is having a negative effect on the ecosystem. I have submitted additional testimony and references regarding predator management ([Exhibit O](#)). The presence of coyotes may benefit sage grouse because coyotes keep mesopredators in check. Unregulated trapping may be having unintended, negative consequences.

**Dave Gowan:**

I oppose S.B. 213.

**Walt Gardner:**

I am a rancher in Ruby Valley. I oppose S.B. 213. This bill would hamper my ability to control predators on my ranch such as beaver, squirrels and gophers.

**Mr. Gowan:**

Many of us in this room in Elko are opposed to this bill.

**Joel Blakeslee (Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife; Nevada Trappers Association; Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

I oppose S.B. 213. I wish to rebut previous testimony regarding the 24-hour visitation. A statement was made that 63 dogs were caught in traps. I do not know where the numbers came from. I would counter by saying 60 dogs were taken by coyotes out of people's backyards in Spanish Springs Valley, and those are only the ones that were reported.

I have given thought about terror and pain for animals. There is no other avenue for wild animals. They cannot go to a vet. The predators are athletes, and if they miss their prey, they can starve to death.

Many of the incidents discussed today concerned traps set illegally and not by fur trappers. The trap that caught Ms. Ruckman's dog should never have been

there. Someone went to the store and bought a trap, and there was a law against it.

**Chair Ford:**

What was the law that prohibited the incident to Ms. Ruckman's dog?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

It was set within a distance to a freeway that was illegal. We passed a *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC) last session that further makes it illegal in addition to what we did through the Commission.

I gave a seminar at the Nevada Humane Society showing people how traps work and where they could go to avoid traps. I was asked why we did not post signs where the traps are. I then asked the audience if anyone would take my trap or destroy it. Someone raised his or her hand. That made my point.

**Chair Ford:**

What else could you mark the traps with besides a flag?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

How do we know which direction a person is coming from? Would it have to be posted 360 degrees to be visible from any direction? A trailhead would be okay.

**Chair Ford:**

If there was a way to accomplish this, are you amenable to flagging traps?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

Probably not. I do not want my traps stolen or tampered with. I would not want children attracted to them.

**Senator Manendo:**

What are the penalties for stealing a trap?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

I think it is a misdemeanor, but I am not sure. I do not know if anyone was ever prosecuted for letting a dog out of a trap.

**Chair Ford:**

Do the trappers have concerns if someone releases their dog from a trap?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

Not a problem. They should absolutely free their dog.

**Chair Ford:**

What is your opinion on registering traps?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

The inherent flaw in the system is we register people, not traps. There is no system in place to surrender a trap that has been sold or stolen, as we do with vehicles. You would need a separate number on every trap, which would be expensive. I have sold 300 traps that have my number on them. I have no control over those traps.

**Chair Ford:**

It would seem the benefits would outweigh the burden of the ability to know who owns the traps.

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

I do not believe the way we have the trap number can be used as prima facie evidence. Who is to say I set the trap?

**Chair Ford:**

That is a different issue. It seems to me what you described does not happen that much.

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

In 15 years, nothing good ever came of it.

There has been testimony that there is no scientific evidence. I have papers from NDOW and the Wildlife Society disputing that claim. Almost everyone in this room is either wearing clothing made from some part of an animal or is digesting the flesh of an animal.

**Chair Ford:**

What is your position in allowing a person to remove an illegally set trap in the case of imminent harm?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

The proper avenue would be to contact law enforcement.



**Chair Ford:**

If a child is near a trap, do you really have time to call the police if harm is imminent?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

I would not argue with that. The more appropriate thing to do would take the child out of harm's way.

**Chair Ford:**

In some areas there are no cell phone signals available to call and have someone move the trap. That also mitigates against not allowing someone to move a trap, legally or otherwise.

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

That is a good argument. You can turn it around 180 degrees; what protects the trappers from malicious tampering, and what would be our recourse?

**Chair Ford:**

What if we set up a penalty for that?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

That would be fine. We already have a penalty for that, but it never gets enforced.

**Chair Ford:**

What if we strengthen the penalty?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

That is up to you.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

It is not unusual to have more than one trap set at a site, is it?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

Absolutely not.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

If you spring the trap thinking you are protecting your child or dog, there could still be the danger of additional traps.

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

I have searched the internet to see if a child has been hurt in a trap, and I could not find any.

**Senator Manendo:**

I just found some on the internet.

**Chair Ford:**

I find it a valid concern that children might get caught. What are your thoughts on visitation?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

The current law is a framework, not a requirement. It does not say you have to wait 96 hours to check your trap. You check your traps every 24 hours for certain species. It depends on the time of the year. Nevada is a state ruled by time, space and distance. A beaver is limited to an area of 100 yards of water. You know where the beaver will be. A bobcat covers vast areas of desert. You do not know when the bobcat will come around your trap.

**Chair Ford:**

What about Arizona's 24-hour visitation?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

There are a lot of states with 24-hour trap checks. The difference is most of those states are dealing with animals you will catch in 24 hours, such as muskrats, raccoons and mink. Many states are almost totally private land.

**Chair Ford:**

What is the distinction between public and private relative to a law that requires you to check every 24 hours?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

I am not saying I agree with it. That is what Arizona does.

**Chair Ford:**

Then why can we not reduce our visitation time?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

The game management areas in Arizona catch almost as many bobcats as we catch in half of our State. Our environment is extremely dry with huge distances between animals.

This is the seventh or eighth time I have come before the Legislature discussing this same issue. Each time it has been rejected. I have submitted some additional information ([Exhibit P](#)). The 24-hour visitation will force everyone back to town. This will cause problems in urban areas and problems with management of the species.

**Jim Curran (Director, Nevada Trappers Association):**

I oppose S.B. 213. I have been a sportsman for over 60 years. I am a retired biologist from NDOW. For the past 6 years, I have been the Conservation Director for the National Trappers Association. There have been pets caught in illegally set traps. Shortening the visitation would reduce trapping participation in the State. Arizona lost a lot of trappers and predator control when they went to 24-hour visitation.

I am concerned about the possible federal listing of sage grouse as an endangered species. Most of the trappers in Washoe and Elko Counties have long distances to travel. This area is also prime for sage grouse. A bobcat is a predator of ground-nesting birds. If we lower the visitation hours, trapping will come to a stop and thereby lose predator control for the sage grouse.

**Chair Ford:**

Are you saying that reducing the time factor will cause trappers not to trap because of the distance, which will cause the sage grouse possibly to be put on the endangered species list because they will be eaten by predators?

**Mr. Curran:**

Absolutely.

**Chair Ford:**

Are there other forms of predator controls that can be utilized to protect the sage grouse in the absence of trapping?

**Mr. Curran:**

The State is involved in raven control with regard to sage grouse leks. The key bobcat trapping areas are also prime sage grouse habitat.

**Chair Ford:**

What percentage does trapping play in predator control with regard to protecting the sage grouse?

**Mr. Curran:**

I have no data on that. The assumption is if several thousand bobcats are taken out of prime sage grouse habitat, the survival of the sage grouse is enhanced. Trappers trap at no cost as opposed to paying the cost for federal trappers.

The concept of flagging is problematic. There are flags everywhere for all types of things such as surveyors and construction. I do not see any benefit or justification for flags.

I run the Nevada Trappers Association fur sale. We have furs from several western states. The animal suffering statistics are not correct. An animal does not necessarily step in a trap 10 minutes after it is set. I have submitted my research report ([Exhibit Q](#)).

**Robert Brunner:**

I oppose S.B. 213. Trapping has been an issue for several years. The majority of people speaking are against the changes in this bill. The poll on the legislative Website this morning had 85 people in favor and 770 against this bill. There have been misfortunes caused by people setting illegal traps near parks in the summer. This bill does not address those illegal situations.

**Chair Ford:**

What is wrong with the suggestions in this bill?

**Mr. Brunner:**

Regarding the registration issue, law-abiding people will do it, and illegally-minded people will not. Enforcement on trapping is working. We pay enforcement officers to use trail cameras. Enforcement has caught violators on the issues previously discussed. Trespassing is a sheriff's issue.

**Chair Ford:**

I have heard that wardens stake out unregistered traps. Would registration assist law enforcement?

**Mr. Curran:**

Enforcement has demonstrated an ability to catch the illegal person. We pay for that. That is the best way.

**Chair Ford:**

I am not sure it is effective to have an officer staked out for 3 or 4 days to determine who owns an illegally set trap. It is not unreasonable to ask you to register your traps.

**Mr. Curran:**

That is a matter of opinion. As technology improves, you will be able to set up a camera and check it on your home computer.

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

We have discussed the four issues on the bill. This is our culture. It is relationships with family and friends. It is not recreation. The culture of trapping runs deep in this State. This city is named after a trapper, Kit Carson.

**Chair Ford:**

We understand this is a big issue on all sides, and we take it seriously.

**Mike Cassidy:**

I oppose S.B. 213. I do not think it is well written. I oppose the marking of traps and am concerned about child endangerment. If we reduce the 96-hour check to 24 hours, it will bring trappers closer towards metropolitan areas, where inexperienced people may find the traps and possibly sustain harm. Trappers in the outlying areas will not be able to meet the 24-hour limit. Trapping itself may be compromised because a trapper would be leaving his scent every 24 hours.

**Chair Ford:**

Considering the difficulty of meeting the timeline for traps that are a distance apart, would a staggered check system work?

**Jack Robb (Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife):**

The Commission opposes S.B. 213.

**Chair Ford:**

Are there any amendments that could be suggested that would allow the Commission to support this bill?

**Mr. Robb:**

That was not discussed at the time.

**Chair Ford:**

What was the Commission vote on the bill?

**Mr. Robb:**

It was 7 to 2 or 8 to 1. I am not sure.

Trap registration and visitation issues have been brought before the Commission several times. Those items are not under the purview of the Commission. They are covered in the NRS not the NAC. We cannot adopt any NAC regulation that conflicts with the NRS.

**Mr. Drew:**

We oppose S.B. 213 as written. There were technical issues. Section 1 ends with "of an animal." When we talk about "an animal" we are getting away from fur-bearing mammals, and it could mean mice, voles and squirrels. Section 3 mentions a "poisoning device." We were not sure as to the meaning. Those devices are typically not used in recreational trap setting.

The flagging had some concerns as well. How do we implement it effectively and consistently?

The language that was stricken in section 5, subsection 2, which refers to the employees of the State Department of Agriculture and the USDA, would prevent Nevada Wildlife Services, USDA, from performing critical services such as nuisance animal control at airports and urban areas.

**Chair Ford:**

Why are you opposed to the stricken language?

**Mr. Robb:**

It was a technical issue. We felt it might limit their ability to carry out their duties with regard to safety issues, whether it be animal control at an airport or for nuisance wildlife.

**Chair Ford:**

As I read this, there is no limitation. It completely exempts the employee.

**Mark Jensen (State Director, Nevada Wildlife Services, United States Department of Agriculture):**

With that being stricken, it would remove our exemption from the trap check law.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Do you post when you have traps in an area?

**Mr. Jensen:**

Yes, we do. We have a policy with the USDA to sign an area that has traps. We do not sign each individual trap, but we have signage in the area. The M-44 device has an EPA registration and 26 listed use restrictions. They are posted.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

These are the same areas that are used by recreational trappers. Those areas could be a lambing range, and the signs could be there through the winter.

**Mr. Jensen:**

That is correct.

**Chair Ford:**

Is your concern about the language "an animal," that it makes it too broad?

**Mr. Drew:**

That is correct.

**Chair Ford:**

Did you say the Commission has no jurisdiction to issue regulations relative to registration and visitation?

**Mr. Drew:**

In our meetings, our Deputy Attorney General said those items were off the table because they were within NRS. We could not enact any rules in NAC that would contradict NRS.

**Chair Ford:**

How about signage and flagging?

**Mr. Drew:**

I believe we could.

**Chair Ford:**

Does the Commission have the authority to issue rules or regulations about disturbing traps?

**Mr. Drew:**

That would be my interpretation. It is in NRS 503.454, subsection 2.

**Mr. Robb:**

Mr. Drew and I sit on the trapping committee of the Commission. We have spent many hours wrestling with the mandates of S.B. No. 226 of the 76th Session and dealing with the congested areas of Washoe and Clark Counties. Every time we look at a law dealing with wildlife, it has an effect on public safety.

**Chair Ford:**

It seems to me that registering your traps would benefit public safety.

**Mr. Robb:**

I cannot speak to that as it was never discussed since it was taken off the table by our Deputy Attorney General.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Do you know how many predators you take through animal damage versus the recreational trapping?



**Mr. Jensen:**

I do not have figures on that. I know we take very few bobcats or other furbearers. We deal with livestock complaints. We average between 5,000 and 7,000 coyotes a year. The fur take is around 2,000.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

A lot of coyotes are taken by sport hunters.

**Mr. Jensen:**

That is correct. The private trappers and hunters perform a viable part of wildlife management.

**Chair Ford:**

How would registering a trap affect that?

**Mr. Jensen:**

I have a hard time answering that. The USDA stamps all our traps. Hundreds of our traps are stolen each year.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

How often is the number on the trap used to contact you for stolen traps?

**Mr. Jensen:**

Rarely. There is no phone number on the trap, just a stamp that says "US" or "USGOV."

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

Would a ballpark figure be 100 times a year?

**Mr. Jensen:**

Probably less than six.

**Senator Manendo:**

You stated you took 2,000 animals a year?

**Mr. Jensen:**

We take approximately 5,000 to 7,000 coyotes a year. This encompasses all methods: trapping, shooting, snaring and aircraft. The private trappers take around 2,000.

**Senator Manendo:**

How many people do you think are trapping?

**Mr. Jensen:**

I do not have the number of how many trapping licenses are sold. We have 30 people in our department.

**Senator Manendo:**

How about total private trappers in Nevada?

**Mr. Blakeslee:**

Perhaps 1,000 to 1,200 trappers.

**Senator Manendo:**

How would registration affect your ability to do your job?

**Rob Buonamici (Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department of Wildlife):**

Trap registration is not a cure-all. It would be akin to a vehicle license plate. If it was involved in a crime, it does not mean the registered owner is at fault, but it does give us a starting point. Traps will be stolen, and some will not have numbers. That requires an investigation, just like any other law enforcement agency.

**Senator Manendo:**

That sounds like a good idea.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

This was in the books, and we took it out.

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That is correct.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

It did not work then. Why will it work this time?

**Chair Ford:**

Was it working in the first place?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

I was a game warden in the field when it was required. I would say 90 percent of my cases solved were a direct or indirect result of trap registration. The trap registration led us to the violators.

**Chair Ford:**

Trap registration helped you find the violators?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That is correct. But that being said, we are still able to apprehend the perpetrator most of the time without the registration. It does enhance our efficiency.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Convictions were difficult, were they not? Unless you actually caught someone using the trap, that person could say it was not his or her trap or it was stolen.

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That is correct. There was a combination of activities occurring. Some were similar to what Senator Goicoechea pointed out, or were the occasions when we would knock on a door, do an interview and issue a citation.

**Senator Manendo:**

Was this in statute and then repealed?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

The NRS said the trappers "shall" register. The word "shall" was subsequently changed to "may."

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

How are the trappers registrations attached?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

The law reads they have to be affixed to the trap or bear a number. Usually it is stamped in the pan or on the trap itself.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

I saw one attached with a twist tie on the side with the number tag on it.

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That would suffice and meet the letter of the law as bearing a number.

**Chair Ford:**

If registrations were required, could regulations be made more stringent to make them more effective?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

As with most laws, the details are important. The Commission and the trappers would need to look at it. False tags and tag theft is a concern.

**Chair Ford:**

Most trappers will abide by the laws and not engage in the activities you just described.

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That is correct. Most trappers are great folks and sportsmen and women. There is always the percentage who tries to beat the system.

**John Sullivan (Nevada Trappers Association):**

I oppose S.B. 213. It is illegal to disturb a trap set by a licensed trapper. To allow the untrained and unlicensed public to remove and disturb traps is asking for trouble.

**Chair Ford:**

This statute does not give carte blanche authority to move a trap. Can you tell me why it is not a good idea to move a trap if it poses an immediate and obvious risk of injury or death to any person, pet or service animal?

**Mr. Sullivan:**

It is a subjective determination. The untrained public is making a determination that the trap is a danger to their pets. They can remove the trap based on their subjective determination.

**Chair Ford:**

Pets are getting caught in traps. We have seen pictures. We know it happens. Could you suggest terminology or language that would allow persons to move a trap if it posed an immediate danger to their pets?

**Mr. Sullivan:**

Pets being caught in a trap are in bad situations, and it is something we want to avoid. The untrained public should not be tampering with them. They should leave the area.

There are several concerns about flags or warning signs at trap locations. Flags would be an advertisement to look for traps to steal. Trappers go to great lengths to set their traps in remote areas and hide them from the public for the very reason of avoiding conflicts and theft.

Flagging would incur a cost and affect the landscape. There could be thousands of flags throughout our pristine and remote areas. If the flags are disturbed by wind or snow, or removed by someone else, would the trappers be subject to a violation? Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit R](#)).

**Rachel Anderson (Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

I am submitting testimony for Tracy Truman ([Exhibit S](#)). He is opposed to S.B. 213. Trap registration initially started in 1979 and was abandoned in 1995. The inherent flaw is that the registration would register trappers, not traps. If the goal is to register the individual traps, a new system would need to be developed so each trap has its own unique registration number for identification and not be based on the trapper.

This bill would make trappers vulnerable to malicious actions of persons who steal or tamper with traps. It also compromises the privacy of the trapper. Trappers are constantly trading, selling and buying traps. This registration system would severely impair that ability.

**Michael Reese (President, Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

There were many people waiting to speak in opposition to this bill who had to leave. They asked me to speak on their behalf. Most trapping happens in the winter months. That time of year has the fewest members of the public outdoors. Trappers work towards zero incidents. They do not want any pets or people hurt in their traps.

Flagging will not solve the problem. It will not attain zero incidents. The payoff is not there. That is why registration was halted in 1995.

**Chair Ford:**

I have done some research on the 1995 change in registration. It was not entirely because registration was not working; there were politics involved. What detriment will registering the traps have to the trapping profession today?

**Mr. Reese:**

You will be asking the trappers to put their own marks on their traps as compared to automobile licenses the State provides. If trappers supply their own numbers, what is stopping someone else from duplicating those numbers for their traps?

**Chair Ford:**

Are you saying the government needs to do the registration?

**Mr. Reese:**

Absolutely. It could be copied easily.

There is a coyote problem in Las Vegas. They have been found on main streets. The only thing that has changed in the last 5 years is distance. You have to set traps one-half mile away. There is a low number of trappers in this state.

**Chair Ford:**

I am familiar with the coyote problem. This statute will not ban trapping.

**Mr. Reese:**

The vote of the Commission was 7 to 2. The legislative Website's poll shows 93 in favor and 771 against this bill. The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife strongly opposes S.B. 213 as written.

**Mike Olsen (Sage Hill Dairy; Churchill County Wildlife Advisory Board):**

I commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of the Interior, for their work in rural communities. In 2011, a portion of the USFWS budget was spent on predator management. There were 628 predators removed with those projects. Trappers removed approximately 2,000 predators in the same time period with no cost to the State. I trap 200 miles away. If visitation hours are changed, trappers will come closer to urban areas. We share the same land as chukar hunters.

The definition of which animals qualify for shorter visitation is not clear. The way it is written, I would have to identify and check my gopher traps every 24 hours. It would be very costly for me, as I have hundreds of gopher traps. I oppose S.B. 213.

**James Thompson:**

There is a responsibility when you are in the backcountry. Trapping is an old tradition, and people have a right to engage in it lawfully. People who live on farms feed and water their animals, as they will become the farmers' food. Trappers take animals for their pelts. They are taken sometimes because they are predators. People who venture outdoors in the wilderness area with their pets need to exercise personal responsibility. If your pet usually sits in the house and you turn it loose thinking it has the right to run wild and free, your judgment is flawed, even if you act within the confines of the law.

**Dave Stowater (Nevada Trappers Association):**

My mother's dog was killed by a coyote jumping over her backyard fence. Animals are killed by predators coming into town. Trapping helps save these animals.

I have taken my dog with me when I trap. He stays in the car most of the time because it is not safe outside. I use him when I have something caught in a trap and I cannot find it. He has a better sense of smell than I do. He can also help me locate missing traps.

**Paul Dixon (Chairman, Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife):**

I oppose S.B. 213. The trapping issue has been in the forefront for the last 2 years. I have listened to all the testimony and have not heard anything new. Our meetings have paralleled the Commission meetings in duration and public input. We have consistently voted against any change to trapping regulations. Implementing new regulations would incur a huge cost.

Traps need to be one-half mile from the road. How many people are walking their dogs a half-mile from the roads?

**Chair Ford:**

Does your organization have authority to change rules regarding registration or visitation?

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**Mr. Dixon:**

No, we do not.

**Senator Manendo:**

Has your advisory board had lively hearings on this issue?

**Mr. Dixon:**

Yes, we have. We had law enforcement come one time, as there were death threats to our board because of a video from a former board member.

**Senator Manendo:**

Has the NDOW created a subcommittee on trapping?

**Mr. Dixon:**

The Commission had a subcommittee on trapping.

**Senator Manendo:**

Do you know when they last met?

**Mr. Dixon:**

It met last September.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

The new regulations implemented from S.B. No. 226 of the 76th Session have only been in place for six months, is that correct?

**Mr. Dixon:**

That is correct.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Maybe we should give the regulations time to work.

**Robert Gaudet (President, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.; Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

I am not a trapper, but I do hunt and fish. For over 13 years I have been a hunter education instructor and an angling instructor for NDOW. I oppose S.B. 213. Having a dog under voice control will not help when there is a snake under a bush. Bad people do bad things; they will not obey laws. This will hurt law-abiding citizens.



**Chair Ford:**

I will close the hearing on S. B. 213 and open the hearing on S.B. 245.

**SENATE BILL 245**: Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous wild animals. (BDR 50-161)

**Senator Michael Roberson (Senatorial District No. 20):**

States across the country have begun to regulate the private ownership of dangerous wild animals as pets. As the states around Nevada adopt laws, our national reputation has grown as a haven for the private ownership of these dangerous animals. Nevada is one of six states with minimal laws regulating ownership of these pets. The escape of the two chimpanzees from a backyard cage in a Las Vegas residential area demonstrates the free-for-all attitude is beginning to catch up to us. It is only a matter of time before an unsuspecting neighbor is injured or killed by a dangerous animal that they were not aware was even in their neighborhood.

I am concerned about the proliferation of these pets. I sponsored S.B. 245 because it is time for Nevada to enact a statewide prohibition on the private possession of dangerous wild animals to protect public safety and animal welfare.

This bill proposes to prohibit the future possession of dangerous wild animals, including big cats, primates, crocodiles, bears, wolves, and some species of venomous snakes. Existing owners would be able to keep the animals they currently have, but not breed them or acquire new ones.

This legislation would exempt accredited zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, research and educational facilities, casinos and circuses. I have supplied an amendment (Exhibit T) which makes reasonable accommodations to objections we have heard.

When wild animals are legally permitted to be kept in private hands, citizens are put in harm's way. These animals can, and do, cause death and serious injury, and they spread deadly disease. Taxpayers and sanctuaries shoulder the financial burden of irresponsible individuals who can acquire these animals due to weak or nonexistent regulations.

Senate Bill 245 has support from Washoe County Sheriff's Office, North Las Vegas Police Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Clark County and the City of Henderson. Under State law, local officials have little autonomy to address the risk to public safety in their communities.

**Warren B. Hardy II (Humane Society of the United States):**

This bill is not a reaction to the chimpanzee attack in Las Vegas. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) wanted to target states with limited legislation. Nevada is surrounded by states with stricter policies regarding dangerous animals.

**Chair Ford:**

Is this bill modeled after a law in another state?

**Mr. Hardy:**

It was based on legislation from other states, but it is now uniquely ours. We made an effort to reach out to anyone who might be impacted by this bill. Law enforcement related many instances where an exotic animal was found in a home when they were responding to a call on a different matter. We worked with Siegfried and Roy Productions to ensure this bill would not impact the entertainment shows.

I have submitted written testimony for Lynda Sugasa of Safe Haven Rescue Zoo, at her request as she had to leave ([Exhibit U](#)).

One request is to have the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) receive the same exemption as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). We are close to reaching an amendment that will address the ZAA's concerns and other concerns voiced in the past few weeks.

**Nicole G. Paquette (Vice President of Wildlife Protection, Humane Society of the United States):**

We support S.B. 245. This bill will protect public safety and animal welfare. This bill addresses specific wild animals as listed. Previous lists have been refined to the current list. Since 1990, more than 700 incidents have occurred involving big cats, bears and primates that have caused injury or death.

This bill would prohibit future ownership of these animals. Current owners would be able to maintain ownership until the animal passes away. Owners

would have to maintain veterinarian records or acquisition papers proving they acquired the animals prior to July 1, 2013. Owners would also be required to report to local animal control agencies the number and types of dangerous wild animals they possess. This is important to ensure that first responders and animal control know where these animals are housed. This bill sets up local animal control agencies as the overseeing agencies.

The exempted parties would include the AZA, accredited institutions, research facilities, wildlife sanctuaries, veterinarians providing treatment, persons transporting animals temporarily through the State, animal shelters housing these animals, law enforcement agencies, circuses and casinos.

Some of the proposed amendments, [Exhibit T](#), are related to the exemption section of the bill. There were concerns about obtaining liability insurance. The proposed amendment, [Exhibit T](#), will amend that out of S.B. 245. There was concern regarding section 10, subsection 1, paragraph (e), subparagraph (2), where 300 hours of experience are required for employees involved with animal care. This assumed that every staff member of the hotel or casino needed this experience. That was not the intent of the bill. The conceptual amendment proposed to remove that section.

The conceptual amendment proposes to remove the requirement in section 10, subsection 3, paragraph (a) that individuals who display animals provide a recapture plan to the local animal control. This implied all staff be trained in recapturing the animals. That, again, was not the intent of the bill.

The conceptual amendment requests to clarify contractual agreements in section 10, subsection 4, paragraph (a). The bill says you need an ongoing 2-year contract with a resort hotel. Often performers are hired for a single event. Therefore, the language would be changed to an active written contract within the immediately preceding 2 years rather than the entire 2-year period.

We will present an additional amendment to allow the ZAA to be exempt.

We worked with law enforcement to ensure they would be able to enforce the requirements, such as on-site confiscation. Proper due process provisions are included. There is a prohibition against the intentional releasing of a wild animal. Escapes of wild animals are not uncommon. The owners must report the escape

immediately to law enforcement and they will be responsible for the recapture and costs.

Cities and counties may be able to adopt more stringent rules, if they choose.

**Senator Settlemeyer:**

My constituents have had a variety of large animals, elephants, lions and buffalo. What is the reason for this bill to come forward?

**Mr. Hardy:**

Because of Nevada's lax rules, there is anticipation that problems will happen. We had hoped to be preventative instead of curative.

**Ms. Paquette:**

Incidents are not always reported.

**Chuck Callaway (Director of Intergovernmental Services, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):**

We support S.B. 245. Animal Control usually takes care of animal complaints. However, if a case rises to a felony level, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (METRO) has jurisdiction to take it over.

In the last few years, METRO has had several incidents involving escaped exotic animals. One was a black panther and another was the chimpanzee alluded to earlier. This bill is a step in the right direction to give law enforcement a tool in addressing potential situations.

**D. Eric Spratley, Lieutenant, (Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Washoe County Regional Animal Services):**

The Washoe County Regional Animal Services is the consolidated animal control and animal service agency for all of Washoe County. These animals getting loose, and they do, creates a public safety issue. We support S.B. 245.

**P. Michael Murphy (Coroner, Clark County):**

I am specifically speaking for Clark County Animal Control. I echo the comments of the previous law enforcement personnel. We support S.B. 245. We are seeing an increase of these types of situations. We regulate dogs and cats; it is appropriate that we regulate dangerous and exotic animals.

**Sandra Noffsinger:**

I am submitting written testimony from Linda Faso ([Exhibit V](#)). Ms. Faso has over 25 years' experience dealing with exotic animals in our community. Several incidents have happened in the last few years. Two leopards got loose 2 miles from an elementary school. A pet lion with a pink harness got on a school bus with the driver in disbelief. A man was killed by a tiger while getting it ready for a photo shoot. A python, nearly 18 feet long, attacked a 3-year-old boy, and the mother stabbed the snake 17 times before the snake let the boy loose.

With so many exotic animals in private hands, these incidents will continue to happen. By their very nature, exotic animals are dangerous. I support S.B. 245.

**Stacia Newman (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

I support S.B. 245. Many escapes and animal attacks go unreported. People have good intentions when they get exotic animals, but many times they do not know what they are getting into. The animals start out small, like servals, and then spend their lives in a garage or laundry room. I have seen a serval get loose and shred a dog in seconds. There was a snake attack at the swap meet. A pet bobcat, that after living 2 years in a garage because he was unmanageable, got loose in the neighborhood.

The owners of exotic pets say it is their right to possess these animals at residential properties. Homeowners also have the right of quiet enjoyment.

**Nancy Salazar (Nevada Political Action for Animals):**

All wild animals belong in the wild in their own environments. They should not be put in small aquariums or cages for human entertainment. I would not want my family to be next door to someone who had a tiger, chimp or boa constrictor that could get loose and come into my yard. I support S.B. 245.

**Catherine Smith:**

I support S.B. 245. People often purchase pets and then realize they cannot care for them, overloading wildlife sanctuaries or releasing non-native species into the wild. Owning exotic pets fuels the illegal wildlife trade including endangered species. According to the United Nations News Centre, almost 3,000 great apes are illegally traded each year with half being chimpanzees. Traffickers will falsely claim they were bred in captivity. The majority of states do not allow the personal ownership of exotic pets.

**Don Molde:**

I support the concept of S.B. 245. There seems to be a large amount of background checking required. How will these background checks be handled? How will the data be compiled? Is it public information?

**Chair Ford:**

I would suggest you speak with the sponsors of the bill.

**Joel Blakeslee (Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife; Nevada Trappers Association; Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

I have submitted a position statement from the ZAA for the record ([Exhibit W](#)). The ZAA would like equal protection under the law, the same as the other zoological organizations. The ZAA accreditation standards meet or exceed all USDA requirements regarding cage construction and animal contact. After considerable negotiations, we are very close to an amendment that will address the concerns.

**Scott Shoemaker (Director, Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership):**

I will be referring to a presentation from Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership (REXANO), ([Exhibit X](#)). I oppose S.B. 245.

There have been statements regarding people having illegal pets such as bobcats and servals. Nothing done here will change the fact that people will still have illegal pets.

**Chair Ford:**

Does that mean we should not regulate them?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

They are already regulated in Clark County.

**Chair Ford:**

What about stiffer penalties?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

That would be up to Clark County. Bobcats are regulated by NDOW. The chart on page 5, [Exhibit X](#), shows fatalities by type of facility and animals. Elephants and killer whales are not covered in S.B. 245. The National number of deaths annually from venomous snakes is 0.84. A comparison shows more deaths are

caused by discharge of fireworks and dogs than exotic animals. In Nevada, dogs and horses kill the most people.

The last documented fatality in Nevada was in 2001 when a trainer was killed by a tiger. Injuries are a voluntarily accepted occupational hazard, not a public safety issue.

Nationally, in the last 23 years, 21 people died by a captive big cat, 6 people died by captive bears and no one died from a primate.

**Chair Ford:**

Is it your position we should not ban exotic animals because they do not kill anyone?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

It is not the public safety issue that people think it is. We have no problem with NDOW's regulations of bears, cougars and bobcats. There are caging requirements and background checks, and then you can apply for a permit.

**Chair Ford:**

Is there a permitting process to own a bear?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

Yes.

**Chair Ford:**

Are they allowed to be owned in residential areas such as Las Vegas and Reno?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

The City of Las Vegas permits them through zoning. They are banned in Henderson and North Las Vegas. Clark County regulates them. A minimum zoning requirement is two acres.

**Chair Ford:**

Are the incidents happening in other residential areas the result of illegal ownership?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

Yes.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you know what the current penalties are for illegal ownership of exotic animals?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

The penalties are a maximum of \$1,000 fine and confiscation of the animal. The caging and feeding of these animals is expensive.

**Senator Manendo:**

Is there any species of animal that would not be suitable for a private residence as a pet?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

You provide for public safety by meeting the caging requirements, having perimeter fencing and security measures in place. We have emergency action plans.

**Senator Manendo:**

So, would any animal be suitable in your eyes?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

Yes, if you have the knowledge. You need to do a lot of research if you are going to have an animal. I cannot see outright banning.

Since 1990, there is no record of a member of the general public dying as a result of a captive big cat, bear or primate unsupervised and off the property where the animals were kept. This is not a public safety issue.

**Chair Ford:**

We just had an example of a mountain lion on a leash walking onto a bus. Is that a public safety issue?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

No. That was a mountain lion cub.

**Chair Ford:**

What about the two leopards that were found?



**Mr. Shoemaker:**

Once they get outside of their cage or property, they are scared. They tend to run away. It is also a concern if a rottweiler gets loose and runs down the street.

The NDOW has minimum caging requirements. Thirteen counties have ordinances regulating exotic animals.

**Chair Ford:**

If 13 of the 17 counties have ordinances, does that not speak in favor of a statewide ban?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

The choice is up to the counties. The proponents of S.B. 245 want you to think they are kept in tiny backyard cages and are neglected. There are animal welfare and cruelty laws addressing that issue.

People can learn to provide for animals. The bill says it is permissible to have exotic animals on the Las Vegas strip as entertainment, but must be banned in the desert where there are no tourists or public, [Exhibit X](#).

This bill will hamper our ability to help animal control, as we will not be able to accept any new animals. The exemptions are not equal. This bill sets up conditions to confiscate animals. It is a ban and confiscation bill.

**Chair Ford:**

Could you explain your confiscation statement? The current owners will be grandfathered in.

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

They will be grandfathered in, but you have to meet the new requirements. If animal control has reasonable suspicion to believe you have violated any provision, they can confiscate your animal.

**Chair Ford:**

There is still due process after a violation.

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

They will remove your animals and force you to pay for the care of it. What other animals do they do that with?

**Chair Ford:**

With what conditions do you disagree relative to the grandfather provision?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

I cannot get new animals.

**Chair Ford:**

To which provisions in the bill do you object regarding ownership?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

If a report says the water is green, that is reasonable suspicion. That is animal welfare. I can keep what I own. The provisions only allow certain people to get new animals. There is nothing in the bill that addresses public safety such as caging standards.

Chimpanzees live 50 to 70 years, and big cats live 15 to 20 years in captivity. This bill restricts commerce. There are exhibitors who live in Nevada and go on tour. They will not be able to replace their animals as they die.

What were the criteria for designating a species as dangerous? The bill says all primates. There are primates smaller than your hand.

It is an unfunded mandate on counties. They will have to perform the background checks and the inspections. The liability insurance required does not exist. This bill is written by HSUS, not local Nevadans. We said we would work with them if they were writing regulations for permitting and caging standards but not if it was a ban. There is no place for animals to go. There is one sanctuary north of Reno and one AZA facility in Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay.

**Chair Ford:**

How many animals are we talking about?

**Mr. Shoemaker:**

If it goes into effect, it would affect 20 to 30 animals. There are too many issues to fix.

**Zuzana Kukol:**

I oppose S.B. 245. I have been a big cat noncommercial owner for 18 years. I am licensed by NDOW and have to follow certain requirements. The laws should apply to everyone and not exempt some.

In the last 5 years in Nevada, four people were killed by dogs and two by horses. That seems to be acceptable. If someone is injured by an exotic animal, that becomes a reason for a ban. It is a double standard. The last four big cat fatalities happened in the exempt entities such as the AZA.

This bill does not have caging standard. It also exempts people based on tax status, whether or not you are a sanctuary or nonprofit. Also, members in random private groups are asking for exemptions.

Animals are property. This bill gives the exempt people more rights with their property. The exempt people can replace their animals, where I cannot. I cannot breed my own property.

Nevada does not have to follow other states' leads in banning ownership of exotic animals. Nevada is unique. If you want to be cold, go to Alaska. If you want to be warm, go to Hawaii. If you want everything banned, go to the East Coast. If you want prostitution and exotic animals, come to Nevada.

The proponents of this bill would not know how to feed a tiger. I am an expert in exotic animal care, a true animal lover. I am not a threat to public safety. Additional information is provided in my written testimony ([Exhibit Y](#)).

**Jay Holt, DVM (Roos-N-More Zoo):**

The ZAA has published their caging tools and methods on its Website. We are submitting a request ([Exhibit Z](#)) and plan to support S.B. 245 if the amendments are appropriate for the well-being of the animals and public safety.

The Roos-N-More Zoo is my personal zoo. I established this zoo to house unwanted exotic animals. We also provide public education.

We are here to help Nevada develop regulations for animals that are really dangerous. Not all primates can be considered equal. A 1-pound marmoset is not as dangerous as a chimpanzee or gorilla.

**Chair Ford:**

Could a primate that fits in your hand carry a disease that could be transmitted if it bites you?

**Dr. Holt:**

We do have to consider Monkey B virus. It is a herpes virus. That is a public safety concern. Those types of monkeys would not be exempted. The ones we are considering would not be any more harmful than your dog or cat.

We are trying to be proactive and would like to come to an agreeable resolution.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Are you looking for an exemption for your zoo?

**Dr. Holt:**

Yes, I am.

**Beau Ray:**

I oppose S.B. 245. Dogs can be dangerous. An exotic animal can be a hamster or a bird. Most people who have snakes or reptiles provide the necessary caging. I own a large snake. I have moved from certain states because I reached the size limitations for snakes in that state. Who is to say what is or is not a companion animal? You could get a little puppy that grows up and attacks your neighbor. If you raise these animals properly, they become domesticated and will not hurt you. The owners of the wild cats that attacked them understand their pets and forgive them.

**Chair Ford:**

Have you seen the list of animals that are being banned?

**Mr. Ray:**

Yes, but it was confusing. The list is exotic animals. There are loopholes. It is a slippery slope.

**James Thompson:**

I oppose S.B. 245. This bill bans exotic animals under the guise of protecting the public. There is a difference between someone hoarding a wild animal in the home as opposed to someone who has bought, cared for and properly housed a wild animal. People are having a visceral reaction to the chimpanzee's assault.

It has happened less than six times across the country. Small primates that could not inflict any harm on anyone will be banned in this bill.

**Jimmie Martin (Sierra Safari Zoo):**

I oppose S.B. 245. Nevada's economy benefits from the current laws regulating wild and exotic animals. There are more places to visit and view these animals than ever before. I would like to see Nevada become like Florida. Florida is the mecca for exotic animals. No one is dying from wild animals in Florida. The HSUS has eliminated ownership of exotic animals in many states. Those people are looking for a place to go. We should make the State a refuge and a sanctuary. Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit AA](#)).

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Is your zoo exempt or accredited?

**Mr. Martin:**

We are not accredited yet. We need two more acres to have the 6 acres required by the AZA. I do not think we should have to belong to a private agency like AZA or ZAA.

**John Potash (Close Encounters Wildlife Adventures; Southern Nevada Academy of Kindred Ectotherms):**

I oppose S.B. 245. Please consider my testimony as a representative for the 40 people who had to leave due to the lateness of the hour. Many were children who were hoping to speak out about their future.

In 1997, I founded the Wildlife Rescue Foundation. It is a nonprofit organization that provides nuisance wildlife removal and a nationwide exotic animal adoption program. In 12 years I have received less than 10 exotic animal rescue calls. None of those constituted any public safety risk. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit BB](#)).

**Chair Ford:**

Have you been involved in the negotiations for the amendment?

**Mr. Potash:**

The only involvement I had was to try to set up an appointment with Senator Roberson.

**Chair Ford:**

He is here now. Please speak with him.

**Tim Stoffel (Sierra Safari Zoo; Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership):**

I am opposed to S.B. 245. The State is not overrun with exotic animals. There are 69 lions and 49 tigers in Nevada. This includes known private owners as well as licensed exhibitors. Washoe County has two privately owned tigers. Florida has more than 1,000 registered tigers.

**Chair Ford:**

Do you have any statistics on exotic animal attacks in Florida?

**Mr. Stoffel:**

I do not have exact statistics. I believe two or three people were killed in Florida in the past 25 years. They usually involved the keepers or mistakes made by private owners. No children have been killed by big cats.

**Chair Ford:**

Is the basis of your testimony that regulations are not needed because it is not a big deal?

**Mr. Stoffel:**

That is correct. We do need a regulation to ensure people have a perimeter fence. This is a total ban on breeding. This would put our zoo out of business, as our animals are getting old. This would prevent new zoos from forming. The AZA will micromanage your animals. It is illegal to transport a privately owned big cat across state lines. People are not flocking to Nevada with exotic animals.

Magic shows all over the country use big cats safely. Cats enjoy entertaining.

**Robert Gaudet (President, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.; Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife):**

I oppose S.B. 245. It does not improve public safety. We need better enforcement. For over 10 years, the Nevada Wildlife Federation has held rattlesnake avoidance classes for dogs. There has never been an incident of dog or human being bitten by a rattlesnake. A certified dog handler and a licensed snake handler are present at all times. This bill would affect all types of exotic animals, including rattlesnakes.

**Valerie Holt, DVM, (Roos-N-More Zoo):**

I oppose S.B. 245. I operate Roos-N-More Zoo. In 2010, I petitioned to have ZAA considered as an AZA equivalent. It was changed in the NAC and NRS. We are asking for an exemption now because it has already been considered. Our standards are published. The ZAA does not have a 6-acre requirement. It is open to anyone who wishes to join who meet the criteria and standards of safekeeping and husbandry.

Primates have endangered species among them, such as lemurs. The liability insurance is high. There are several governing bodies in our area, which creates enforcement problems as to which entity has authority. Personal pets do not have to be listed with the USDA. The City of Las Vegas gives a lifetime permit, but no one checks on the status of the cages. We are not addressing public safety with this bill.

**Keith Evans (President, Cat House Inc., dba Lion Habitat Ranch):**

I have been in Nevada since 1975 and own the most exotic cats in the State. I have done live displays for every major casino in Las Vegas and Reno. In 1997, I designed and supplied the lions for the MGM lion habitat. These lions are now at my home on the Lion Habitat Ranch. My employees are trained above any existing standards. I oppose S.B. 245. This bill would prevent us from competing with out-of-state owners for contracts.

Anyone who owns a cat now is grandfathered in until July 1. They can keep the animal without any caging requirements. These cats will live another 20 years. There is no standard for housing. This bill does not address exotics coming in from other states to do shows in Nevada. There are no licenses to import these animals into our State. There should be no exemptions unless it exempts everyone. People will still do it illegally. We agree there should be laws and regulations in place, but the way this bill is written, it is a ban that punishes law-abiding owners of exotic animals.

**Heather Potash (Southern Nevada Academy of Kindred Ectotherms):**

I am 15 years old and have been exposed to exotic animals all my life. I oppose S.B. 245. Someday I want to be able to keep and work with exotic animals. If you pass this bill, I will have to leave Nevada to pursue my dream. Additional information is in my written testimony ([Exhibit CC](#)).

**David Boland:**

I am an environmental specialist with Washoe County. I oppose S.B. 245. I have spent over 40 years around exotic animals. I agree with previous testifiers. I think there is an agenda behind this bill. There is a lack of public safety in this bill. It is a slippery slope. I do a lot of public speaking and presentations to children in schools. There has never been an incident. I am not AZA sanctioned, nor do I have a sanctuary. This bill would put me out of business. Exposure to the exotic animals may help children learn to preserve and conserve during their lifetime. The agenda did not come out of Nevada. We need to work with Nevadans to come up with responsible laws governing these animals.

**Chair Ford:**

I find it difficult to hear you speak about agendas. The people who brought the bill forward are Nevadans. There is a good faith reason to bring about a bill.

**Mr. Boland:**

It is the HSUS.

**Chair Ford:**

The point I want to make is reasonable minds may disagree, but reasonable people brought forth this bill.

**Mr. Boland:**

I will work with the sponsors of the bill.

**Richard Hogan:**

I do not own any animals at all. I oppose S.B. 245. This bill is not looking at Nevada owners of these animals. We need to allow the folks that have animals now to keep their animals in a responsible manner. This bill does not talk about caging requirements. It is a total ban. The exemptions seem to be selective. Let us work with the owners and draft legislation that makes sense.

**Tony Monda:**

I own three capuchin monkeys. I am the only one who has a license to perform in North Las Vegas. I have been performing with capuchin monkeys for over 30 years. I built the first animal park in Clark County in 1971. I love exotic animals. There has never been an incident with my monkeys. They are a long-lived species. They should be given an exemption. I oppose S.B. 245.



**Richard Bilby:**

I own a capuchin monkey. I am registered with the USDA. I have a business license and am ready to start a business as an organ grinder. This bill will stop me before I ever get started. I oppose S.B. 245.

Organ grinders have been around for many years. I carry \$2 million of insurance. I want to keep this activity alive for my daughters. As a Las Vegas resident I can have this monkey grandfathered in and keep it in a cage. A California resident can come to Las Vegas and show his monkey because he is listed as a business. I cannot work my own monkey. There are organizations that train capuchin monkeys to work with quadriplegic people. How can they be considered dangerous when they live and assist quadriplegic people who are helpless? The capuchin monkey should be exempt.

**Ken Foose (Exotic Pets):**

I hold a master's degree in Zoology. I used to own a zoo licensed by NDOW in Virginia City called Reptiles of the West. I closed it in 1990 and moved to Las Vegas. Large and potentially dangerous animals should not be allowed to run loose or escape. It does happen, however. The usual result is a scolding or a fine. In a more progressive society, there would be better rules, better caging requirements and inspections. This bill is unfair. I oppose S.B. 245. No deaths have been caused by exotic animals. Fear is the reason we are banning exotic animals.

This bill has no safety measures for the public. There are no captive husbandry requirements for the proper keeping of these animals. There are no regulations regarding the grandfathering clause. We could renegotiate with the local experts and present a new bill at the 2015 Session. This should be solved by Nevadans, not outside entities.

**Senator Manendo:**

Do you sell venomous snakes?

**Mr. Foose:**

Yes, I do.

**Senator Manendo:**

What percentage of your sales are snakes?

**Mr. Foose:**

Very little, by my choice. I choose to sell about 20 a year. I could sell more. I have an agreement with the City of Las Vegas to report anyone who buys a rattlesnake for permitting purposes. Most people then decide not to buy a rattlesnake.

**Senator Manendo:**

Where do you get them from?

**Mr. Foose:**

I breed them.

**Adam Ortega:**

I oppose S.B. 245. If this was a regulatory bill, there would not be the opposition to it as there is currently. This is an outright ban. This is a slippery slope for future animals to be banned. It is already regulated by many counties and cities.

**Mace Loftus:**

I am a federally licensed USDA Class C exhibitor. I oppose S.B. 245. I provide educational programs. If this bill were to pass, I would be unable to continue doing that. The AZA and ZAA facilities still have to answer to the USDA.

People have exotics that the USDA does not cover such as reptiles. The NDOW has good controls on a variety of species.

I oppose the listing of wolves in this bill. Most of the captive wolves in this country are becoming "Ambassador Wolves." Ambassador wolves are selectively bred wolf dogs that are used for film and education. They are easily trained. Additional information is in my submitted testimony ([Exhibit DD](#)).

**Daniel Gray (Sierra Aquatics):**

I oppose S.B. 245. As the owner of a business that carries exotic animals, a large portion of my business is educating youth on those animals. I have visited eight classrooms in the past week. The children are excited to see, touch and hold the various exotic animals. I agree with previous testifiers. We should enforce regulations instead of a total ban. The current Website poll is 63 for the bill and 1,508 against it.

**Rob Buonamici (Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department of Wildlife):**

The NDOW is neutral on S.B. 245. We thank the sponsors for reaching out to NDOW for our input on this bill. Originally, we were included under law enforcement in Section 5 of the bill. We were accidentally omitted during the rewrite. We request to be reinstated. It has been discussed with the sponsors.

**Chair Ford:**

Who supplies the permits for ownership of animals that would be classified as exotic under this bill?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

It is the licensing branch of NDOW.

**Chair Ford:**

Could you give me an overview of the process?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

A permit is required to possess live wildlife in the State. The permit is delineated in NAC 504.450 through 504.498.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Do you inspect the facilities periodically after issuing a permit?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

Occasionally we do spot-checks. It is an issue of personnel time.

**Senator Goicoechea:**

Are you supposed to do checks under the NAC?

**Mr. Buonamici:**

That is correct.

**Chair Ford:**

I would like to hear from the sponsors regarding the slippery slope concern.

**Ms. Paquette:**

The HSUS does not have an agenda to add more species or ban dogs and cats. The list before you is the list presented in other states. We have an active

campaign to protect companion animals and to work with local shelters. We have an expansive list of animal issues on which we work. We do not have a hidden agenda.

**Chair Ford:**

What about the capuchin monkey?

**Ms. Paquette:**

They are wild animals. Even though they are captive bred, they never lose their wild instincts. The capuchins that work with paraplegics have been defanged and declawed. In 2010, the Americans with Disabilities Act removed capuchins as helper animals. The only federally recognized helper animal is the dog. We have documentation of injuries caused by capuchin monkeys.

**Chair Ford:**

Could you tell me how this list was derived for dangerous wild animals?

**Ms. Paquette:**

It covers the most incidents and is a standard list across the country of what other states ban. Animals regulated in other states are big cats, bears, primates, wolves, dangerous reptiles, alligators and crocodiles.

**Chair Ford:**

You used a key word, regulated. That is different from this bill.

**Ms. Paquette:**

I should have said restrict. Thirty-one states ban big cats. Twenty-four states ban all primates. Twenty-three states ban all reptiles. Thirty-three states ban bears. Those are the species across the country, and those are the species in S.B. 245.

**Chair Ford:**

There are not that many attacks from exotic animals as opposed to dogs.

**Ms. Paquette:**

You pointed out there are millions of dogs in private hands and not that many exotic animals. It is not a correct comparison. The big cats and exotic animals have the ability to cause more damage than dogs. They have killed people.

I think 770 incidents is a high number. When these animals get out, they wreak havoc in the community and pose safety risks.

**Chair Ford:**

Why do we need to regulate this if 14 counties already do?

**Ms. Paquette:**

I am not sure there are actually 14 counties that have regulations. I would have to check that for accuracy. It is simply not enough. We need a statewide framework for handling these animals. We should be worried about Nevada being a free-for-all State. That would also tell you that the regulations are not enough.

**Senator Roberson:**

You have heard a lot of inaccurate information from the public. The number of counties with restrictions may be one of those inaccuracies.

**Mr. Hardy:**

We did try to meet with the folks from REXANO but were unable to do so.

**Senator Roberson:**

I did have someone from my staff drive to Pahrump and visit the REXANO facility.

**Mr. Hardy:**

The bill would not apply to REXANO if what they have said to us and have publicly stated is true. They would be exempt. I did meet and speak with Mr. Foote. Currently there are more regulations governing a cat or dog than there are for governing a bear.

I heard the concerns about confiscation of animals. We will revisit that issue. This bill will not impact any currently owned animals. Rattlesnakes are not included as prohibited reptiles. Wolf dogs are not included in the bill, either. Fencing and caging should be left to local jurisdictions. Clark County was restricted by NRS to deal with it through zoning only.

We met extensively with Siegfried and Roy Entertainment with regard to this bill.

**Chair Ford:**

The comparison was made that you are protecting Siegfried and Roy and The Strip, but not protecting the person in the middle of nowhere. What is your rationale?

**Mr. Hardy:**

We are attempting to protect anyone who has a legitimate reason to own these animals. There are responsibilities we have as a government to protect people. I would not own a big cat. I cannot handle it, and I do not want it around my children, but my neighbor can. That puts me in harm's way. I reject the notion that this was not brought forward by Nevadans. It has been brought forward by Nevadans for the consideration of Nevadans.

**Chair Ford:**

I will close the hearing on S.B. 245.

**Mr. Ortega:**

I would like to be included in any workshop that happens. I will also provide you with a book titled *Animal Rights, The Inhumane Crusade* ([Exhibit EE](#)).

**Chair Ford:**

I suggest you speak with the sponsors of the bill.

**Dr. Holt:**

The statement made by Ms. Paquette regarding the declawing of helper monkeys is inaccurate. They have fingernails like humans. It would be an amputation of their digits.

**Mr. Ray:**

This is a ban for exotic animals. This begins the slippery slope.

**Ms. Zukol:**

The casinos are exempt. The animals are still there.

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**Chair Ford:**

There being no further business, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources is adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Lynn Berry,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Aaron D. Ford, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>EXHIBITS</u></b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>		<b>Witness / Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	23		Attendance Roster
S.B. 181	C	2	Sen. Ben Kieckhefer	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 371	D	2	Sen. Ben Kieckhefer	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 213	E	71	Trish Swain	TrailSafe Nevada
S.B. 213	F	4	Trish Swain	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	G	2	Margaret Flint	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	H	5	Stephanie Myers	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	I	6	Don Molde	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	J	1	Christine Schwamberger	Fallon Fur Sale Results
S.B. 213	K	7	Amie Ruckman	The Ruckman's Story
S.B. 213	L	2	Carolyn Stark	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	M	2	Fred Voltz	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	N	2	Catherine Smith	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	O	3	Pamela Gartin	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	P	9	Joel Blakeslee	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	Q	2	Jim Curran	International Humane Trap Research
S.B. 213	R	2	John Sullivan	Written Testimony
S.B. 213	S	5	Rachel Anderson	Tracy Truman Testimony
S.B. 245	T	2	Senator Michael Roberson	Amendment
S.B. 245	U	2	Lynda Sugasa	Written Testimony
S.B. 245	V	2	Linda Faso	Written Testimony
S.B. 245	W	34	Joel Blakeslee	ZAA Position Statement
S.B. 245	X	23	Scott Shoemaker	The Facts of the Keeping of "Exotic" Animals in Nevada
S.B. 245	Y	2	Zuzana Kukol	Written Testimony
S.B. 245	Z	2	Jay Holt	Presentation Outline opposing S.B. 245
S.B. 245	AA	3	Jimmie Martin	Written Testimony
S.B. 245	BB	4	John Potash	Written Testimony



S.B. 245	CC	1	Heather Potash	Written Testimony
S.B. 245	DD	4	Mace Loftus	Written Testimony
	EE	250	Adam Ortega	Animal Rights, The Inhumane Crusade