

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

**Eightieth Session
March 6, 2019**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Vice Chair Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod at 4:02 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Alex Assefa
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblyman Ozzie Fumo
Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblyman Howard Watts
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst
Allan Amburn, Committee Counsel
Nancy Davis, Committee Secretary
Alejandra Medina, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity
Meghan Wolf, Environmental Activism Manager, Patagonia
Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Anne Macquarie, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club
Fawn Douglas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
John Hiatt, Conservation Chair–Press Liaison, Red Rock Audubon Society
Robert Gaudet, President, Nevada Wildlife Federation
Ian Bigley, Mining Justice Organizer, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Gabrielle d'Ayr, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Larry Johnson, President, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Inc.
Jocelyn Torres, Nevada Program Director, Conservation Lands Foundation
Christian Gerlach, Organizing Representative, Sierra Club
Carmen Lee, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Greg Smith, Director, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Karen Boeger, Co-Chair/Secretary, Nevada Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Tom Clark, representing Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition
Vickie Simmons, Chairman, Moapa Band of Paiutes
Maurice Friedman, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Christi Cabrera, representing the Nevada Conservation League
Maurice White, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Tiffany East, Member, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife
Jim Woods, Private Citizen, Gardnerville, Nevada
Judy Larquier, Private Citizen, Minden, Nevada
Jack Thompson, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Misty Grimmer, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Kurt Kuznicki, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Pauline Houston, Private Citizen, Lovelock, Nevada
Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

[Roll was taken. Rules and protocol of the Committee were reviewed.] I will open the hearing on Assembly Joint Resolution 2.

Assembly Joint Resolution 2: Urges Congress to reject any expansion in the use of land or exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Air Force in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. (BDR R-697)

Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Assembly District No. 29:

Last January I was lucky enough to take a tour of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. I was struck by its beauty and in awe of the cultural significance of the area. It has petroglyphs and artifacts everywhere. We looked down and there were shards of arrowheads at our feet. From that same area by the petroglyphs, within our vision, we could see the area where the U.S. Air Force (USAF) has said it wants to build two airstrips that would have near daily C-130 transport plane flights. When the USAF was approached to discuss this plan, they refused to talk to Nevadans about it. While I respect federal oversight of our public lands, the fact that the USAF has refused to even speak with Nevadans about this is very disheartening. In fact, the USAF even refused to speak to the Department of Wildlife (NDOW). With me is Patrick Donnelly, who will take you through a PowerPoint presentation and provide facts about the resolution.

Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity:

I am here today to speak with you about the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, a gem of the Mojave Desert in Las Vegas' backyard ([Exhibit C](#)). The Desert Refuge is home to the largest and most important desert bighorn sheep herd in the southwestern United States. It is targeted for takeover and partial closure by the USAF, who are seeking to expand the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) on Nellis Air Force Base. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was designated in 1936 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and it was so designated to protect the most abundant desert bighorn sheep range in the southwestern United States. The refuge is 1.6 million acres, making it the largest national wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states. It includes 1.4 million acres, which were proposed as designated wilderness by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That 1.4 million acres has been managed as de facto wilderness for almost 100 years, making it one of the most intact and least disturbed ecosystems in Nevada. The National Wildlife Refuge System as a whole is a nationwide system of protected public lands, specifically managed to protect outstanding wildlife habitat for future generations and recreational opportunities.

Page 3 ([Exhibit C](#)) is a picture of a desert bighorn sheep, the keystone species of the refuge. It is the Nevada state animal and an icon of the Mojave Desert—formerly abundant across our state, and a staple of the indigenous American foodways and culture. Overexploitation, habitat fragmentation, and disease have diminished the desert bighorn's population as a whole. That is what makes the Desert Refuge so special. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is protected because it is the best habitat for desert bighorn sheep. The Sheep Mountain Range, which is the main mountain range on the refuge is an enormous spine of rocky peaks stretching over 60 miles from Alamo to Las Vegas. Between that range and the other mountain ranges on the refuge, there are over 700 bighorn sheep. Again, that is the largest herd of desert bighorn sheep in the Southwest. This is an area of global importance in terms of preserving the heritage of the Mojave Desert.

It is also a source population where bighorn sheep will migrate outward from the refuge to populate adjacent areas. As I said, this is unbroken habitat. Because it was withdrawn from mining and other extractive uses a long time ago—in the 1930s—there are very few traces of human development there. There is no mining history or other extractive industries. There are a few little cabins in the mountains and a few dirt roads. Joshua trees are abundant as shown on page 4 ([Exhibit C](#)). There is also the densest yucca forest in the Mojave Desert. All of this creates a very high quality desert tortoise habitat. The tortoise is a federally protected species in southern Nevada, very important for our conservation scene in the Mojave Desert portion of Nevada, and there is high quality tortoise habitat on the refuge.

There are many cultural sites of importance to the local Paiute Tribes on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. This includes petroglyph sites, ancient rock art as shown on page 5, tool-making sites, and agave roasting pits. There are estimated to be many hundreds of these sites across the refuge. They have not even been fully catalogued yet. If we were to lose these places, we would not even know the extent to which we would be losing these cultural sites.

It is important to note here that the Moapa Band of Paiute passed a resolution opposing the expansion of the bombing range ([Exhibit D](#)).

Finally, the outdoor recreation is really unparalleled at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. There are many miles of rugged dirt road, including the famous Alamo Road that runs from Las Vegas to Alamo. It was the old way that people made that journey before U.S. Route 93 was built. Now it is a classic desert adventure, four hours of bone-rattling four-wheel drive to get across the refuge. It takes you to some beautiful places like the sand dunes in the desert lake valley, which are a classic destination for hiking and picnicking. It is where we take folks when we want to show them the refuge. There are over one million acres of potential wilderness, including the area surrounding the sand dunes. Just for reference, the place that Assemblywoman Cohen referred to where the runways will be built is on the lake bed seen on page 6 ([Exhibit C](#)). There would be two runways there, probably some sort of air traffic control tower, and numerous planes coming in and out daily.

The USAF has proposed expanding the 2.9-million-acre NTTR. The proposal would assume primary jurisdiction over 850,000 acres that are currently under joint management. This area is jointly managed by the USAF and the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, but the primary management is under Fish and Wildlife. The primary management of that area is to protect bighorn sheep habitat. The USAF has access and they use portions of it, but it is mostly intact and managed for bighorn sheep.

The USAF would assume primary jurisdiction of that area. They would close Alamo Road and close off public access to an additional 250,000 acres of wildlife refuge that is currently open to the public. They would also take over and close about 70,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior land adjacent to the refuge and the NTTR near Beatty.

Not just taking over this land, there would also be heavy construction, industrializing the landscape with two new runways, 115 miles of fence, and an unknown number of new roads, as much as 30 miles. The fence and the roads are what is important here. This is unbroken, undisturbed habitat, and that is what bighorn sheep like. Fragmenting it with fencing and roads degrades that habitat and will ultimately cause a loss for the bighorn sheep population. That is important because of the loss of hunting opportunity. I think you will see that a lot of the folks in this room and in Las Vegas are sportsmen who enjoy the hunting opportunity here on the refuge. The tags for bighorn sheep on the refuge are highly coveted. As a result, there is diverse support for this resolution.

There would also be a restriction of access to guzzlers. Guzzlers are artificial water sources created in the mountains to support wildlife. The NDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many of the sportsmen groups have invested tens of thousands of person-hours and tens of thousands of dollars in creating these artificial water sources which bighorn sheep depend on. If they lost these water sources or if they were degraded and we could no longer access them to repair them, we could, again, lose some of our bighorn sheep population.

Finally, there would be impacts to and restriction of access to those cultural sites I mentioned, including potentially shutting out our Native American tribes from their ancestral sites.

Page 9 ([Exhibit C](#)) shows a map to depict the scale of what we are talking about. The NTTR, as it stands now is shown in red. You can see it takes up a pretty substantial portion of the state. Page 10 shows a map of the proposed expansion. The pink area is the current bombing range; the brown area is the Nevada Test Site; the area outlined in green is the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which is 1.6 million acres protected for wildlife. The pink and green striped area is the joint custody area, which would be transferred completely to the USAF. The blue checked area is the portion of the refuge that is currently open to the public, which would also be transferred to the USAF. In total, you can see that a majority of the Wildlife Refuge would be transferred to the USAF and become part of the bombing range. For reference, Las Vegas is in the bottom right corner of the map. You can see that this is in Las Vegas' backyard.

As I said, there is widespread and diverse support for protecting the refuge. The USAF prepared a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS), analyzing the impacts of this expansion, including a public comment period. They received 32,000 letters submitted in opposition to the expansion. Well over 200 people attended the public meeting that the USAF held in North Las Vegas in 2018. As I said, the Moapa Band of Paiutes passed a resolution opposing the expansion ([Exhibit D](#)). The NDOW, of course, remained neutral on the expansion, which is how they approach these issues, but they had some strong words in their comment letter that I would like to share with you ([Exhibit E](#)). It says "NDOW remains concerned with the alternatives presented in the LEIS as written and especially with the USAF's consistent absence of real and honest coordination with cooperating agencies, including NDOW." If you read a lot of these letters, you will know that is very strong language from a state agency to say that they have been ignored by the USAF.

Page 12 ([Exhibit C](#)) shows a partial list of the groups who support this resolution; there is a relatively even split between the environmental groups and sportsmen groups. We are very united in opposition to this expansion and in support of this resolution. There are many more groups not listed here for the sake of brevity.

Assembly Joint Resolution 2 resolves to urge Congress to reject any proposal by the USAF to expand its use of land or exercise of jurisdiction within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge beyond what it currently possesses. We think the status quo is adequate. This is the biggest bombing range in the world already. Now they are looking to take part of our wildlife refuge. We think the status quo should be acceptable to them and is acceptable for Nevada's wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities. Also, the resolution, through an amendment ([Exhibit F](#)), will urge Congress to work collaboratively to develop a compromise alternative which would provide for military training and provide protections for Nevada's wildlife and outdoor recreation.

I think it should go without saying, everyone in this room and in Las Vegas, we support our military, we support their mission to defend national security, but we also support wildlife and outdoor recreation and we feel that the current status quo strikes the right balance. The final page of my presentation [page 14, ([Exhibit C](#))] is a photo of a baby bighorn sheep. [A Desert National Wildlife Refuge pamphlet was also provided ([Exhibit G](#)).]

Assemblywoman Cohen:

The amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) has a reference to the Moapa Band of Paiutes resolution and the cultural resources to beef up in the resolution how important that is to us.

Assemblywoman Peters:

I am glad you went over the LEIS process; it is demoralizing to hear how that process went down, although not unexpected. I am wondering about the response from USAF to the significant number of letters in opposition. Did they do a comprehensive response to those letters?

Patrick Donnelly:

The letters were in response to a draft LEIS. The final LEIS came out several months ago and there were essentially zero changes from the draft.

Assemblywoman Peters:

Was there a section that included their response to those letters?

Patrick Donnelly:

Yes, they did have a section including their responses, but again, no substantive changes were made to the proposal.

Assemblywoman Peters:

One of the things that we see in LEIS, especially when dealing with private industry development and the impact that it can have to protected habitat is a habitat equivalency

analysis. It sounds like there was no attempt to do that in this LEIS. This would mean that they would find an alternative resource of equal value for the piece of the habitat that we would lose. Did they do anything along those lines that you have seen?

Patrick Donnelly:

There was very minimal, if any, look at compensatory mitigation. Typically a habitat analysis would lead to proposed mitigation measures for your proposal. The USAF proposed onsite mitigation, such as moving a tortoise if they encountered one while they were constructing a runway. Typically an enormous proposal that would have environmental harms would be accompanied by what you are describing, something for compensatory mitigation, where there is a different place where we can benefit the environment. They made no such proposal.

Assemblywoman Peters:

That also suggests to me that there is really no alternative to move this habitat. There is no other habitat that is like this area that is worth investing in. It makes me question the importance of this move. If we cannot replace that habitat that is unique and important to so many people, then we need to find an alternative. The alternative has to include saving that habitat.

Patrick Donnelly:

The NDOW used the word "irreplaceable" in their comment letter.

Assemblyman Ellison:

As you go across the state of Nevada, there are two areas that are proposing more military area. One is in Assemblywoman Titus' district [Assembly District No. 38] and this one. As a pilot, try to fly across the state of Nevada. It is ridiculous. I have a real problem with this when there are other states and other areas that they can use for training. I do not support any more taking of land and restricting areas when we have so little now. I am speaking against any more restrictions, and I like A.J.R. 2.

Patrick Donnelly:

This is the largest restricted airspace in the world already. The airspace over the wildlife refuge is already restricted.

Assemblywoman Titus:

Thank you for bringing this forward. For both Assemblywomen Peters and Cohen, I appreciate your working together and recognizing that at some point, Nevada has to say, Stop, we are not just a desert that you can continue to take away from the citizens' access. I will not tell you the number of points I have on my desert bighorn sheep application, but I am hoping someday to actually draw a tag. Speaking out that Nevada is more than just an urban area and recognizing that—I cannot tell you how much I appreciate that. It is in my district that the taking is also happening in Churchill County with the U.S. Navy. We have reached out to them. You mentioned that the USAF pretty much ignored the statement from NDOW, and I think we are seeing that here in the north also, although the U.S. Navy

submitted an alternative plan which was essentially ignored. I am very concerned about Nevada's access and where we come in as a state, not just sportsmen, but mining and some other renewable resources that would be taken away. I need a little clarification as to what the outreach was that did not work for you? Did you submit an alternative plan that they totally ignored? I recognize that we need a well-trained military so they do not drop bombs on the wrong spot, but their argument is not very good when it comes to why they need this much.

Patrick Donnelly:

There is a broad coalition working on this. For quite some time the offers of meeting were rebuffed. As I said, the USAF received an overwhelming number of comments on this and they made no changes to reflect that. Is there middle ground here? Perhaps, but we have not had the opportunity to have that discussion. The A.J.R. 2 offers that Congress should reach a compromise solution.

Assemblyman Assefa:

I think you touched on the issue that I was going to highlight. That is when the military gets involved in an area, especially for training activities, the airspace in that area becomes reclassified into a Class A Airspace, which means commercial aircraft or private use is restricted anywhere below 60,000 feet. The service ceiling is maximum 36,000 to 37,000 feet. If this were to happen, it would be restricting our navigable airspace for Nevadans and all commercial aircraft. Do you know, in this beautiful habitat, how much of the population of bighorn sheep would be affected if this were to happen?

Patrick Donnelly:

As I said, this is one of the best populations of bighorn sheep in the Southwest, with over 700 animals. It is hard to say exact numbers that would be lost, but we know that this would fragment the habitat significantly. Again, the undisturbed nature of this habitat is why there are so many bighorn sheep there. Presumably, populations could fall. The loss of the guzzlers would be a devastating loss because climate change and other factors have dried up many of the springs that these sheep naturally relied on. In many cases, those manmade water sources are what keep the sheep alive.

Assemblyman Assefa:

Are there any other sites where the USAF could expand?

Patrick Donnelly:

There has been discussion of moving northward, but pretty much everywhere you look, there is going to be something important there. The military has 3 million acres, which is the size of one of the states back East. I think we are all dealing with constraints, and perhaps they are going to have to live with the constraints that they have.

Assemblyman Wheeler:

As an observation, this is what happens when the federal government owns all of your land. They can do what they want with it. It would be very nice to give control back to the state.

I am wondering, is this resolution going to do any good? Or are they going to just run right over the top of us? I cannot see anyone who wants this to happen other than the USAF.

Patrick Donnelly:

This is a resolution for our congressional delegation. Ultimately, only Congress can resolve this issue. I would say that this body passed a resolution in favor of Gold Butte National Monument last session [Assembly Joint Resolution 13 of the 79th Session], and we saved the Gold Butte National Monument. Over the summer, the interim Legislative Committee on Public Lands passed a letter opposing oil and gas drilling in the Ruby Mountains, and now there is legislation proposed to protect the Ruby Mountains. I do think, regardless of how you feel about national monuments or oil in the Ruby Mountains, that the Legislature expressing its will and its desire on behalf of the people of Nevada really does make a difference. Our congressional delegation will read this resolution as an expression of not just your will, but the will of the voters in this room and across the state.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

I will now move on to testimony. I am going to limit testimony to two minutes.

Meghan Wolf, Environmental Activism Manager, Patagonia:

I am here representing Patagonia to speak in support of A.J.R. 2. The currently proposed military expansion into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge would forever destroy hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness-quality landscapes, threaten the wildlife populations that thrive in them, hinder biological diversity, negatively impact recreational and economic values, and shut out the public from areas that have historically been used for outdoor recreation.

The Desert Refuge is a vast and amazing world-class resource for citizens to experience all kinds of world-class outdoor recreation, especially hunting, hiking, and camping. Its proximity to Las Vegas makes it a valuable destination that needs to remain open and accessible to the public. We find that the expansion proposal negatively impacts southern Nevada's recreational economy due to closures of access.

Outdoor recreation activities are an important economic driver; they draw tourists to the region and bring new residents for our workforce. As businesses, we rely on the benefits public lands and recreation bring to our region. During the economic downturn a decade ago, Patagonia experienced strong growth, and the overall outdoor industry grew 5 percent annually during that period. Patagonia continues to experience strong growth as we increasingly speak up for the need to protect our last wild places. We will have 1,000 Nevada employees by the end of 2019, compared to fewer than 100 when we opened here in 1996.

As Nevada moves to diversify our economy and lure more employers to the state, attention is turning to our many and varied outdoor recreation opportunities. A 2018 survey of western state residents' views of public lands, titled "Conservation in the West Poll" found that nearly two-thirds of Nevadans think that western states' public lands and outdoor recreation

opportunities give our region an advantage over other parts of the country. Significant majorities also agree that public lands help nearby economies, conserve national treasures for future generations, and must be protected so their children and grandchildren can experience them one day.

The Outdoor Industry Association released an analysis in 2018 that highlights the economic benefits to maintaining access to and funding for our public lands. In Nevada, the outdoor recreation economy generates 87,000 direct jobs, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, \$12.6 billion in consumer spending, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue. In fact, outdoor recreation sustains three times as many jobs as the mining industry.

We, on the business side, want you to know our economies, urban and rural alike, can benefit from protecting our public lands rather than privatizing, developing, or in this case, turning them over to the military. We think the time to lead is now.

Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness:

We, as an organization, have been working to protect the Desert Refuge for many decades. Today I would like to speak on behalf of our volunteers. For the last six years, we have had students from University of Nevada, Las Vegas give up their spring break and come out to the Desert Refuge and do projects for a week, instead of going out to party.

Our intrepid volunteers have poured out their hearts and souls into pulling out fence that trap desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife. The refuge does not need another 115 miles of fence to damage our wildlife. The volunteers have been working on trail maintenance because there are trails all over on the refuge for folks to hike, to help ensure safer and better access for visitors. The volunteers have been working on repairing damage from illegal vehicle use and help heal wildlife habitat.

Along with the hard work that the volunteers do while they are out there, they get to see this beautiful place and learn about its rich cultural and historical resources and about the plants and animals that live there. It is really an open textbook that these students soak up. Some of these students have gone on to careers in natural resources. I like to think that maybe we touched their hearts when they were out there and got to experience the Desert Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also invested a lot of Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act money from the sale of public land from the Las Vegas Valley. They built a beautiful visitor's center. I do not know how many of you have seen the Visitors Center at Corn Creek, but I encourage you to go. It is a wonderful way to get families to see the wonders of the area. It is a beautiful visitor's center that teaches all about cultural resources, the animals, the importance of water, and it is a great gateway to experience the rest of the desert refuge.

In summary, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, at least the part that the military has not already closed the public out of, is the most remote and wildest place available for Las Vegas and Nevadans. Let us keep it open to the public. I would like to ask for a show of hands. How many folks here in the audience are supporting A.J.R. 2?

Anne Macquarie, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club:

I have a number of points to make that I am not going to make, most of them because we also submitted a letter ([Exhibit H](#)). Following up with Assemblywoman Titus' question, in our minds we are putting this together with the U.S. Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex. They plan to withdraw 750,000 acres that includes public land in Fallon and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge. Together, the simultaneous combined withdrawal of public lands in our state proposed by the USAF and U.S. Navy totals nearly 2 million acres. That is just too much.

Also, I feel obligated to mention that we submitted a petition that was signed by over 700 Nevadans saying that we strongly support the A.J.R. 2 and encourage you to pass it and to pursue every other legal option to protect the desert bighorn sheep and all the other wildlife as well as the open space, wild places, and historic and cultural heritage that make the desert refuge an important part of Nevada's beauty and wild heritage. When I was reading through this petition, I was struck by where these petition signers came from. I would like to tell you where the people who signed this petition are from: Alamo, Boulder City, Beatty, Tonopah, Blue Diamond, Washoe Valley, Carson City, Elko, Spring Creek, Battle Mountain, Wendover, West Wendover, Reno, Verdi, Virginia City, Minden, Wellington, Zephyr Cove, Incline Village, Gardnerville, Indian Springs, Mesquite, Laughlin, North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Henderson. If that is not all of Nevada, what is?

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

I would like to state that all of the Committee members have access to that petition, but it will not be used as an exhibit because it contains personal information. Will everyone in support in Las Vegas please stand up? Thank you, we will hear some testimonies in support in Las Vegas now.

Fawn Douglas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a member of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (LVPT) and have been asked by the Tribal Council to read this statement on behalf of them. Please accept this correspondence as comments from the LVPT in support of the Assembly Joint Resolution 2, a resolution by the state of Nevada opposing the USAF expansion of the Nevada Test and Training Range into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. In commenting, please note that LVPT ancestors, for close to a millennium, have lived, traveled, hunted, worshiped, and otherwise used the land which the USAF now wants to use for flight training, munitions testing, and simulated ground combat. The LVPT is deeply concerned about these proposed uses of the land.

As you can appreciate, western expansion by Europeans and others greatly reduced the ability of Southern Paiutes to use the expansive lands they considered their homeland. The creation of reservations reduced even more the tribes' ability to use the land for travel and food. The LVPT's initial reservation was created in what is now close to downtown Las Vegas, and the acreage taken into trust for the Tribe in 1983 lies in the Las Vegas Valley, with no Tribal rights to the mountains they so often used for sustenance and respite from the brutal Las Vegas summers. The LVPT considers the southern Nevada mountains as sacred. Tribal members stay connected to their culture, religion, and sense of who they are by

accessing public lands outside of their existing reservation. Reduction of that access through the USAF's proposed use greatly affects sacred landscapes.

Already, the Tribe's quiet enjoyment of its land is affected by flyovers and munitions training. This is especially true during the Red Flag training that occurs annually. During these flyovers and trainings, Tribal members are subjected to constant loud noise and disturbance. The Tribe fears that increasing the already existing impacts will damage the Tribe further.

Additionally, the USAF's preferred alternative for the Nevada Test and Training Range, if approved by Congress, would eliminate wilderness protections from nearly 1 million acres of land within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which would increase the threats to the survival of the desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise and other imperiled wildlife, further restrict access to areas of historical, cultural, spiritual and recreational significance to not only LVPT, but other Tribes that regard this area as culturally significant. In addition, this expansion would degrade the ability of future Congresses to exercise meaningful oversight of the USAF's discharge of its environmental responsibilities within the refuge.

Accordingly, LVPT rejects any proposal by the USAF to expand its use of land or exercise of jurisdiction within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge beyond that which it currently possesses and to limit any proposal to extend the USAF's authority over the Nevada Test and Training Range to not more than 20 years. This statement is signed by the Tribal Chairman, Chris Spotted Eagle.

John Hiatt, Conservation Chair–Press Liaison, Red Rock Audubon Society:

I would like to speak in favor of A.J.R. 2. This area was designated in 1936 as the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, but was actually protected long before that. It was originally the Moapa National Forest, designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. It is one of the most pristine landscapes in the continental United States and deserves protection. The USAF would like to not only extend their jurisdiction to primary rather than secondary for what they have, but to extend that to include the Sheep Mountain Range. They would also like permanent jurisdiction. That means there would be no further reviews by Congress and they would have permanent, irreversible use of this land. They would also build significant roads and do other things that would irreversibly alter the landscape. Therefore, we feel it inappropriate to cede to the USAF's suggestions at this point in time. All conversations with USAF personnel have been rather disingenuous in terms of stating what they would do there. You heard that they would like to build two runways at Desert Lake. That area is only accessible by two-track roads at this time. They said that they could build those runways and do everything they need to do without building any new roads. I do not think anyone actually believes that. I think we have no choice but to urge our congressional delegation to look at how the world will be in the future, not necessarily how it has been in the past. Figuratively, the world is growing smaller, we all need to learn how to live with less as the population increases and the land area stays the same. Therefore, the USAF needs to look to modern ways of practice, which will include many more drones, simulators, and not necessarily as many jets in the air.

Robert Gaudet, President, Nevada Wildlife Federation:

I am speaking today on behalf of our 1600-plus members and supporters and on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation, the world's largest conservation education organization with more than six million members and supporters.

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is a hidden gem sprawled across 1.6 million acres of the southern Nevada landscape. Located just 25 miles northwest of downtown Las Vegas, the Desert Refuge provides hiking, birding, hunting, horseback riding, ATV adventures, backpacking, and camping activities on fee-free public land. The USAF has proposed a land withdrawal that will take nearly an additional 300,000 acres of land away from the Desert Refuge, ending public access in many areas.

I am seriously concerned about the proposal to withdraw approximately 300,000 acres from Desert National Wildlife Refuge for military use. While it is essential that our military have access to adequate resources, this should not come as a detriment to one of the most wild and important public spaces in our country. The 1.6-million acre Desert National Wildlife Refuge is home to Nevada's largest population of bighorn sheep, protects countless other wildlife species, and safeguards ancient archeological sites. Located just a short drive from Las Vegas, Desert National Wildlife Refuge provides world-class recreational opportunities throughout its diverse environments that range from dry desert to forested mountain peaks.

I strongly oppose this request to withdraw an additional 300,000 acres from Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and I urge the Department of Defense to leave these refuge lands under the sole jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and leave our public lands in public hands where it will be accessible to all. We are the only country in the world that has public lands that are accessible to all of its citizens. I, for one, will be recommending our public lands continue to be public, accessible, and wild.

Assemblyman Watts:

Part of the refuge that is currently closed to public access does allow some limited bighorn sheep hunting, but it comes with additional hoops to jump through, from what I understand. If the NTTR is expanded, sportsmen could expect to be much more limited in their ability to hunt bighorn sheep in the area; to be unable to do scouting in advance of their hunt; and, of course, to have no access at all to upland game or other sporting opportunities, is that correct?

Robert Gaudet:

Yes.

Ian Bigley, Mining Justice Organizer, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada fully supports the arguments that were made by Patrick Donnelly regarding wildlife and recreation. We also support the comments that were made by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Patagonia, the Sierra Club, and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. I would like to add an additional clarification regarding the comments that have been made on cultural value and make sure the Committee is aware that this is not

just historical artifacts and fossils—this is cultural value that relates to living communities with ongoing values that relate to well-being. I would also state that this land is culturally significant to many of Nevada's indigenous communities, specifically for the Western Shoshone. They do not just have ancestral ties to the land, but they have treaty rights to the land based on the Treaty of Ruby Valley.

Gabrielle d'Ayr, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here today to speak to you as a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and express another reason why we should not be giving away our public lands. Something that is very often forgotten in our veteran community is that we must have something to come back to. We need places we can go to put our heads on straight. We see a lot of things out there, sometimes things that we should not see. It is very hard when we come back and reintegrate into society sometimes. We need space. We need to make sure we have places for veterans to come back to so they can remember why they went, where they went, why they did what they did, and why they came home. They need to fully come home and be part of America again. Sometimes that is difficult.

I am not speaking just for myself. We have a very large veteran population here in Nevada, and I am speaking for veterans around the nation who have similar concerns in their own areas. I was in Washington, D.C., in November to speak on behalf of Pershing County and the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We support A.J.R. 2, and we hope going forward that we remember veterans need something to come home to. We need to be able to experience all the beauty of the public lands we have here in Nevada and in America.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

Thank you very much for your service.

Larry Johnson, President, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Inc.:

I am Native American by heritage, an engineering geologist by profession, and an outdoorsman by passion. I have had the distinct honor of setting foot on the great majority of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. I have hunted bighorn sheep multiple times. I have spent time in the Sheep Range Complex, the Desert-Pintwater Range, and the East Desert Range. It is very special country. Whether it is hidden petroglyphs up a hidden canyon or a big arrowhead in the saddle, it makes me realize that I am not the first native bighorn sheep hunter who has traversed this county. Both my young sons harvested desert bighorn sheep in the East Desert Range. There was a question between hunting in the withdrawn portion of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the Desert-Pintwater Range as compared to the Sheep Range—whether you have to attend special ordnance schools, signing background checks, or listing everyone who is going to accompany you. Also there will be no preseason scouting for people who do not know the ranges as intimately as I do. People coming hundreds of miles away and being told, You have two weeks to go find a desert bighorn ram of your choice in country you have never set foot on can be a daunting task.

I submitted written comments which are signed by directors, presidents, past presidents of at least ten sportsmen organizations in northern Nevada that represent thousands of sportsmen ([Exhibit I](#)). We were hoping that one of the Senate and Assembly joint resolutions would morph into covering the U.S. Navy's proposed withdrawal in the north was well. They are the same issues. I have not seen anything yet in opposition to the U.S. Navy withdrawal.

Jocelyn Torres, Nevada Program Director, Conservation Lands Foundation:

I want to be here in support of [A.J.R. 2](#) and ask all of you for your support as well.

Christian Gerlach, Organizing Representative, Sierra Club:

I would like to echo the comments of our Toiyabe Chapter and thank Assemblywoman Cohen for introduction of this resolution. I have a pamphlet prepared by Greg Anderson, former chairman of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, to explain a little more about the cultural significance of the bighorn sheep and Sheep Mountain Range, as they call it, "Nah'gah." On behalf of Sierra Club National, and all of our members across the U.S., thank you very much for your consideration of this resolution and we hope you will support it.

Carmen Lee, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am representing professors and research students from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I had the experience to do some field work in 2016 and 2017. That is my limited experience with the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. That amount of space encroaching from the airport really puts pressure on the species that rely on that land. The resources there are low-density; they are all spread apart. If you take up that much land, that is less resources for those species to rely on. You cannot push back the land with the bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise and expect them to live off half of what they have now. I just want to tell you that I support [A.J.R. 2](#).

Greg Smith, Director, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited:

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited is a sportsmen's group concerned with the conservation of bighorn sheep as well as other issues impacting various wildlife species throughout Nevada. Our membership represents the largest single chapter of sportsmen and women in the state of Nevada with over 3,400 members.

Upon review of the proposed withdrawal of over 300,000 acres of public land, major concerns with potential adverse impacts to wildlife were raised. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge represents a significant portion of Nevada's total bighorn sheep population and is an important area to numerous other wildlife species. As a matter of fact, the size of the refuge was already reduced in 1999 by roughly half, or 800,000 acres, by the military. I think we lost track of that, but they are back and they want more.

Specifically, we have concerns regarding the impacted ability to manage wildlife and their habitat, impacted access to and maintenance of water developments, and loss of access to important recreational areas. The Nevada Bighorns Unlimited strongly supports multiple use management on our public lands. We also support the USAF and look forward to seeing alternatives developed that allow a reasonable solution to the NTTR training needs while also

allowing NDOW, Nevada's sportsmen, and other recreationists continued access to our public lands on the refuge. We strongly support A.J.R. 2.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

How many people apply for tags for bighorn sheep, how many tags are awarded, and what is the cost of a tag?

Greg Smith:

I cannot answer exactly. Roughly 300 tags are given out. Thousands apply for tags annually; it can take years to get a tag. The cost is approximately \$50 to \$75. If you combine the U.S. Navy with the USAF withdrawal, the two communities will reduce the total number of shoot tags, I believe, by 20 percent.

Karen Boeger, Co-Chair/Secretary, Nevada Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers:

I want to thank Assemblywoman Cohen for bringing this resolution forward at such an urgent time, and for allowing the people of Nevada to speak as one voice on this issue. We submitted a comment letter ([Exhibit J](#)). Many points have been very well made today. I would like to reinforce the notion that within this LEIS by the USAF, to have not had consultation with NDOW and the tribes is a huge flagrant lack of what we see as alternatives that are unpalatable, very controversial, and potentially could have been avoided. The one thing that I think has not been mentioned was to tie together the two segmented military proposal expansions in Nevada, the one in Fallon, and this one in Clark County. Together, cumulative effects would be very vast, if we were able to address both because they are separate and fragmented processes. I do not think they legally have to respond to our concerns about cumulative effects. I could be wrong, but theoretically, they evade the cumulative effect analysis.

Tom Clark, representing Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition:

You may remember when I first came before this Committee, I said you were going to see some real exciting, cool stuff. This resolution is an example of that cool stuff. The Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition consists of 40-plus business owners, large and small, throughout our state. We are looking at two primary missions: The first is to conserve and preserve what we have to ensure we are taking care of this land. The second mission is we are looking to promote it as well. We want to send a message to this country and this world, through tourism and promotion, Nevada is the place to come to experience these kinds of places. From a policy perspective, let us send a message to Congress that Nevada is not a place to drop bombs. It is a place to pitch a tent, to go outside and see meteor showers in dark spaces like you have never seen. That is right outside our back doors. We need to tell our own residents about the wonderful things that Nevada has. When you are sitting in Las Vegas or Reno and you are thinking about getting out in rural Nevada, do you really want to think that you may get a bomb dropped on you because of all that space that belongs to the military? Or do you want to know that this state has put forward policies that we open up and keep those lands open to the public so we can go out and explore and enjoy the wilderness that Nevada has to offer.

Vickie Simmons, Chairman, Moapa Band of Paiutes:

I would like to say that Nevada is not a wasteland, regardless of how other people think about the desert. It is a beautiful place and home of all Southern Paiutes. I would like to read part of our Tribe's resolution ([Exhibit D](#)):

Whereas, the region encompassing the NTTR in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge remain central to the lives of Native American Tribes. These lands are known to contain traditional and ceremonial use along with traditional gathering and collection locations for Native American people. The region contains abundant ecological resources and special power places that are crucial in the continuity of Native American culture, religion and society.

Whereas, the mountains of Southern Nevada are considered sacred lands to the Southern Paiute Nuwu, where great legends were said to have begun and ended and where our hearts belong to this land. Since time immemorial, our people have lived and traveled across these lands. They carved their stories on the rocks, cooked their food in the now ancient roasting pits, and left artifacts that show how our people thrived in this beautiful desert and mountain environment. These are the objects of antiquity that tell the story of the Nuwu; of how we thrived on the land and of how our homelands were stolen by white colonizers. We cannot forget this history; and

Whereas, much of the Refuge has not been properly inventoried for cultural resources and 80% of the Sheep Range is designated as the Sheep Mountain Archeological District on the National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas, the bighorn sheep are sacred to the Moapa people. Creation stories say that the Paiute people enter the mountains and left as sheep. In essence the sheep are people. It is our duty to protect the mountain sheep for if they all die, then we die too. The Refuge was originally protected for the sheep and the mountains in the Desert

Maurice Friedman, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a ten-year resident of Nevada. We have all heard the intellectual side of this proposition to save bighorn sheep and the land. I would like to bring a little emotional side to this. I am a lifelong conservationist, a friend of many Native-American tribes, and I would like to bring the Native-American and folk tradition of song to this issue. [Mr. Friedman begins to sing.]

Oh please, don't bomb our bighorns. Oh please, I said please, don't bomb these last bighorn sheep. I said please, don't bomb our last bighorn sheep, oh won't you leave them for the future to see. And don't you know they have a right just to be.

And please, don't scrape up that old fallout. Please, I said please, don't release that old fallout. Please, I said please, don't scrape up that old fallout, oh please, cuz it ain't nothin' anybody needs to breathe.

And please, don't pave our desert, oh please, I said please, don't concrete that dry lake. Oh please, I said please, don't pave our desert, oh please, let the rain seep to the wells that we need.

Christi Cabrera, representing the Nevada Conservation League:

We are in support of A.J.R. 2. I would like to echo what everyone else has said. We are very appreciative to Assemblywoman Cohen for bringing this forward, and we urge you all to support this measure.

Maurice White, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

I ask that you enthusiastically endorse A.J.R. 2. Further encroachment onto our public lands is an egregious affront to the people of the state of Nevada. We are losing access to our public lands at an alarming and unsustainable rate. Following are some lowlights of the public land access loss Nevada residents have or will suffer in the near future: White Pine County lost 590,000 acres; Lyon County lost 48,000 acres. Various land bills within the House of Representatives 5205–Northern Nevada Land Conservation and Economic Development Act lost 78,000 acres; Douglas County lost 22,000 acres; Pershing County, 286,000 acres. If this bill passes the Senate, you and I will never again see the Humboldt River in Pershing County. Washoe County lost 265,000 acres. The U.S. Navy is requesting 536,000 additional acres, giving them 770,000 acres in their inventory. The USAF is requesting 302,000 additional acres, giving them 3.2 million acres in their inventory. This list is north of 1.2 million acres we have recently lost or will lose access to. I hope you can see that we cannot sustain this level of loss.

I want to bring to your attention a Department of Transportation (NDOT) project known as Interstate 11 (I-11) that will abandon the current Interstate 95 (I-95) right-of-way north of Tonopah. Route B1 of the I-11 freeway will follow the Gabbs Pole Line Road connecting to U.S. Highway 50. This route will put a nearly 100-mile stretch of Nevada desert at risk. The original roadbed for I-95 was put in place in 1929. I am sure the technology is available today to add two more lanes to the existing I-95 right-of-way.

I am asking that you send a message to NDOT that the new I-11 freeway should follow the current I-95 right-of-way.

Tiffany East, Member, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife:

The legislative committee of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners within the Department of Wildlife has supported A.J.R. 2. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was created specifically for the conservation of bighorn sheep. The USAF has proposed expansion and subsequent activity that will likely result in wildlife mortality, including our precious bighorn sheep. The NDOW and its conservation partners have made significant investments of time and resources to improve wildlife resources on the refuge. That will have adverse effects should the proposed expansion move forward. We appreciate your commitment to our wildlife and resources in the state and urge you to support A.J.R. 2.

I found out how many tags we allocate each year on the refuge. In a good year, it is about ten, and they are \$110 each. Statewide, we allocate about 315 tags for bighorn sheep.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

Is there anyone else in Las Vegas wishing to speak in support? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in Las Vegas wishing to speak in opposition or neutral? [There was no one.] We will hear more support in Carson City.

Jim Woods, Private Citizen, Gardnerville, Nevada:

I am the proud owner of Birding Under Nevada Skies. I want to talk, not so much about the whereases and now therefore, I want to talk about Nevada as home and all the life and wilderness and everything else that goes with it. We are giving away land like we have no end to it. We will end up looking like we live east of the Mississippi if we continue to do that. This is one of the most beautiful places where a lot of my clients and myself go, not looking for bighorn sheep, but looking for silence. We do not need aircraft overhead. We do not need live ammunition fire. We do not need bombing ranges. There is enough of that already. I came out of southern Arizona. Everything south of Tucson is ordnance-laced. We will never get this land back. I do not care what the USAF says—when it comes back, it will be totally contaminated, we will have live ordnances, and we will resemble Laos. Nevada is our home. Let us treat it that way.

Judy Larquier, Private Citizen, Minden, Nevada:

I am here to ditto most things that have already been said. I am in support of A.J.R. 2. I spent quite a bit of time hiking, camping, and stargazing in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and it is a very special place. I hate to see the military have more withdrawal of our public lands and have control of that area. We are losing accesses left and right all over the state of Nevada. I enjoy having the opportunity to go out there.

Jack Thompson, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I have camped near the Desert National Wildlife Refuge a few times. It is not like anything you have ever seen before. You cannot really describe what it feels like. It is just utter silence that is the most welcoming silence you have ever heard. Like everyone has said, there are fossils, petroglyphs, and some crazy rock formations down there. The USAF already has 2 million acres of land; that is quite a lot. It is quite a small area that all the animals live in already. It is already hard with climate change, and the guzzlers being there help the animals.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

May I ask how old you are?

Jack Thompson:

I am 12.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

That was a very eloquent testimony, and this Committee definitely appreciates your coming forward. Thank you.

Misty Grimmer, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

Today I am representing myself, my man John, and my dog Sally. We spend a lot of time on the Sheep Range camping and hiking. In fact, when we were camping there in September, John was saying that it is a good thing we are here now because if the military gets their way, we will not be able to do this anymore. I strongly support A.J.R. 2. Sally, especially, strongly supports A.J.R. 2. Sometimes she is not a very social dog, and getting out into the desert is very important to us. We hope we can continue to do that.

Kurt Kuznicki, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I came here today with a litany of atrocities that the federal government has done to Nevada—lying and seizing land. Due to time constraints, I would like to just make a few points. On December 12, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt designated the Moapa National Forest. President Roosevelt knew that this land was for the continued use of the American people, present and future. The government wants to take that, which is just another lie. On December 18, 1950, President Truman designated the Nevada Proving Ground. Nevada was patriotic at that time and supported it. Well, 121 nuclear tests since then, the U.S. Department of Energy has some of the most contaminated land on the planet, right here in Nevada. A couple of underground tests, one in 1963 at the Project Shoal, east of Fallon; and the test in 1968, Project Faultless, east of Tonopah. Part of the reason they picked those sites was because it was rural Nevada, and rural Nevadans were easy to roll.

I want to say that we have a unique opportunity. I have come to a few of these hearings, and I have noticed that we have Assemblyman Ellison, Assemblywoman Titus, Assemblywoman Peters, and Assemblywoman Cohen all on the same page. Last night I attended the Senate hearing, and we had Senator Hansen and the Sierra Club on the same page. This does not happen often. I think this is a Nevada issue and I think if there is one resolution or bill we could all come together on, it is this one. Let us get together as Nevadans to make a statement and tell the federal government, Enough. Nevada is patriotic but we have given enough—go someplace else.

Pauline Houston, Private Citizen, Lovelock, Nevada:

I am representing myself, my husband, my 6 kids, 17 grandkids, 3 great-grandkids, and the animals. I am a fourth-generation Nevadan from both my mother and father. I have lived in Nye County most of my life—Tonopah, Gabbs, and now I reside in Lovelock. All of those areas are affected. What the U.S. Navy is planning on doing to our little town of Gabbs is horrible. They are going to come within two miles of my little hometown. My husband and I both graduated from high school in Gabbs. They are taking away the airport and areas where we used to play. There are lands there that were named after my family and are going to be behind a fence. I will never be able to take my great-grandchildren there.

My family was here before Nevada became a state. My great-great grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Bell, from the Reese River Valley, was Nye County's first state Senator. I am thrilled to have found his picture hanging on the wall downstairs today. He served our great state in 1893, during the 16th Session of the Nevada Senate. I have a feeling he is happy I am here, fighting for our state today.

I love Nevada. Nevada is not a wasteland—neither are its people or its wildlife. Our oldest son sent me a text message today saying, go save our lizards, mom. Growing up in Gabbs, playing in the desert and lizard hunting was a big deal for all five of my boys and their friends. The Navy is set to take that area away with their big land grab, along with Bell Flats, which was named after my great-great grandfather, Senator T. J. Bell.

I say ditto to many of the comments made here today. I would like to add that we have been used as guinea pigs by our own government agencies for years. I use the above-ground atomic bomb testing as a prime example. The fallout that has caused several types of cancers and has killed thousands of people. Those affected are known as "down-winders." My husband's mother died of colon cancer. My grandmother suffered breast cancer, but survived. Her husband, my grandfather, died of lung cancer. My dad died from cancer of the esophagus—he was only 59 years old. Who knows what harmful chemicals our military is going to be using today, or will be using in the future, that will adversely affect our health and that of our children.

Nevada has sacrificed and suffered enough. We need to stand our ground and say, No more, we have given enough. The well-known slogan for Nevada has been "don't fence me in." Now it should be "don't fence me out."

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

As a third-generation Nevadan, I am a little jealous that you have four on both sides. We have established that there is no one in opposition in Las Vegas. Is there anyone in opposition here? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in neutral? [There was no one.] I will invite the bill sponsor back up for closing remarks.

Assemblywoman Cohen:

I have a big ditto to all of the testimony. I want to thank all the supporters for coming up and testifying.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

I will close the hearing on A.J.R. 2. [Also provided but not mentioned are ([Exhibit K](#) and [Exhibit L](#)).] I will now open it up for public comment. Seeing no one in Carson City, is there anyone in Las Vegas for public comment?

Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

This is basically relating to the last meeting. It is kind of shocking that we had hordes of people coming from Ethiopia dominating our tax system. I would prefer if labor is given to people who were born in the United States. Speaking about that, we really do have a border

crisis. I think you guys should put Aaron Ford accountable or address the fact that according to *The New York Times*, about 75,000 people were apprehended at the border. We do not know what exactly is going on. These people could be released in our communities, considering the fact that our schools have been overburdened thanks to migrants and people who are unlawfully here. This burdens our services. As a matter of fact, look at this pen. This pen is from a money transfer. We have the right to be concerned about this migrant crisis at the border, but our Attorney General is suing the president over the national emergency. This is a national emergency. This could overcrowd our cities. We do not know, these people could be flooding into our communities. The fact is, we have an epidemic where many of these unlawful people come here with fake identification. They could do the same as well, they admit that they do it, and they come here. There are language barriers. We do not know, these people could be gang members, they could bring diseases. Why are we allowing the Attorney General to sue the president? Look at the northeast part of this valley. It looks like a third-world nightmare. This to me is unfair as someone who legally came to the United States. Speaking of the environment, do you know that massive immigration impacts the environment? When politicians like Jackie Rosen, when they cater to noncitizens, this is taxation without representation.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

We are not going to disparage our representatives. Thank you for your testimony.

Cyrus Hojjaty:

This is part of a global plan. Research the Kalergi plan, I suggest you do that. Tell the American people how this immigration is benefitting America. Do not shut me down, this is public comment.

Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:

Your two minutes are up. With that, this meeting is adjourned [at 5:31 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Davis
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "A Nevada Treasure: Desert National Wildlife Refuge," presented by Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity.

[Exhibit D](#) is a copy of a document titled "Resolution of the Governing Body of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Tribal Resolution: M-18-03-07," passed by the Moapa Band of Paiutes.

[Exhibit E](#) is a letter dated March 7, 2018, to the 99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, signed by Alan Jenne, Administrator of Habitat, Nevada Department of Wildlife.

[Exhibit F](#) is a proposed amendment to [Assembly Joint Resolution 2](#), prepared by Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Assembly District No. 29, and presented by Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity.

[Exhibit G](#) is a pamphlet titled "Desert National Wildlife Refuge," submitted by Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity.

[Exhibit H](#) is a letter dated March 6, 2019, to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, signed and presented by Anne Macquarie, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, in support of [Assembly Joint Resolution 2](#).

[Exhibit I](#) is a letter dated March 4, 2019, to Chair Swank, submitted by Larry Johnson, President, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Inc., in support of [Assembly Joint Resolution 2](#).

[Exhibit J](#) is a letter dated March 4, 2019, to Chair Swank and Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, signed by Karen Boeger, Co-Chair/Secretary, Nevada Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, in support of [Assembly Joint Resolution 2](#).

[Exhibit K](#) is a letter dated March 5, 2019, to Chair Swank, Vice Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, signed by Brett Jefferson, Chairman, Wild Sheep Foundation, in support of [Assembly Joint Resolution 2](#).

[Exhibit L](#) is a pamphlet titled "Nah'gah: Legend of the Mountain Sheep As told by The Southern Paiute Nuwu," submitted by the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe.