

Good morning chair and members of the committee, my name is Brenda Rodriguez, B-r-e-n-d-a R-o-d-r-i-g-u-e-z and I am the Story Bank Organizer for Battle Born Progress. Last year, alongside our partners at Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Faith Organizing Alliance, Faith in Action, Make the Road Nevada, Chispa Nevada, Make it Work Nevada, and the Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, we released a report focused on decarbonization and equity-focused climate strategies for Nevada.

We know that Nevadans are already living through climate change. Heat waves, drought, air pollution are already affecting our health, our environment, and our ability to make a living wage. Low-income Black, Indigenous and Nevadans of color are especially suffering living in areas with hotter temperatures, dirtier air, fewer green spaces and higher energy bills. This means that low-income Nevadans are having to choose between higher energy bills in the summer and paying for other household expenses and Black and brown Nevadans who work outside are risking their health to make a living with increasing heat waves.

Yet they are also too often left out of clean energy, energy efficiency and transportation solutions that could lower our bills and improve our health. Climate change efforts will only be successful if our state can protect vulnerable Nevadans and build resilient communities. Nevada's leaders must champion equitable climate solutions as we transition to a pollution-free future. If policies are not designed well, these Nevadans will receive little benefit. Low-income households of color use 30% less energy from fossil fuels than highest-income households -- contributing the least to the planet's warming, yet are by far the most impacted.

If decarbonization policies aren't designed to help low-income communities of color most harmed by climate change, then those policies could do more harm than good. Through policies that will not only fight climate change but also reduce pollution in our neighborhoods, we can build a new kind of Nevada that runs on clean, affordable local energy and puts people's health over corporate profits. This means a thriving, pollution-free future not just for our children, but for us now, too. Thank you for your time