

Thursday, June 16, 2022

To: Joint Meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Dear members of the committee,

The undersigned organizations write to express our concerns about the health impacts that Nevadans are facing due to climate change. People of color and low income communities are the most vulnerable communities because they are often left out of discussions. As temperatures continue to rise Black and Brown Nevadans who work outside are risking their health to make a living with increasing heat waves. This issue doesn't end at work, many of these Nevadans are also living in areas with the worst air quality and often don't have access to healthcare.

This committee will be vital in ensuring that Nevadans' voices are heard and that a change can be made in order for all Nevadans to have equal access to clean air. Nevada's leaders must champion equitable climate solutions as we transition to a pollution-free future. 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.

As we work to build a new Nevada we must be conscious of these vulnerable communities. Reducing pollution in our communities like in the Historic Westside and North Las Vegas will be one of the first steps in the right direction. By prioritizing policies that will not only fight climate change but also reduce pollution in our neighborhoods we will be ensuring that our communities will stay healthy now and for future generations to come.

We call on the committee to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Retire polluting power plants near low-income communities of color;
2. Provide accessible, electric public transit so people can get around easily and affordably, without needing a car;
3. Pass legislation that will help low income Nevadans and people of color in Nevada to not experience healthcare issues due to the dirty air that they breathe everyday by ensuring equitable access to the economic and health benefits of energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, and electrification, beyond home- and landowners.

Those impacted by the policies you consider deserve to have clean air. By implementing future laws that will ensure that everyone has access to clean air, Nevada will thrive. All of the organizations who have signed on this letter helped put together a report with these findings which can be found [here](#).

Regards,

Institute for a Progressive Nevada
Chispa Nevada
Faith Organizing Alliance
Make the Road Nevada
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Faith in Action Nevada