

Good morning and thank you chair and members of the committees for the opportunity to give testimony. My name is Chasity Martinez with [Faith In Action Nevada](#) and I am also a resident of Reno. I join alongside other organizations and community members today to talk about how climate change is impacting the health of our communities. I want to start off by stating that I am part of a generation that has never known a stable climate. It's been nearly 3 decades that we've been talking about climate change and we still have so much to do to address this existential threat.

I am a person of faith but I am fearful for my generation and future generations. The topic of climate anxiety is a growing reality among many. There are conversations I've had with others my age, where we talk about how we don't even want to have kids because we don't know what kind of future they will inherit.

But we know that this crisis does not affect everyone equally. Those who have contributed least to the problem, on a local and global scale, are also those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and with the fewest resources to adapt.

Climate change is happening here and now in our state and it disproportionately impacts people that are low-income and communities of color. In Reno, the areas with the highest concentration of air pollution, along freeways and around industry, are also located near low income, communities of color. Those same communities also lack access to green spaces and consequently, opportunities that promote physical and mental health. Aside from the day to day pollution that is also increasing from more folks moving into the region and therefore more vehicles on the road, we also have the increasing threat of summer wildfire smoke. I remember driving home from work last summer and I looked to my left and saw the smoke plume from the Caldor fire at South Lake and then looked to my right and there was a smoke plume from the Beckwourth Complex fire in northern CA. Our whole region was just surrounded with dense smoke. I think about how privileged I am to have shelter, a vehicle to travel in, and work that is indoors because for a lot of our neighbors, that is not the case. For those who have no choice but to live, travel, or work outside and without proper protection, I can only imagine the effects on their lungs and overall health. It breaks my heart to see this becoming our normal - it can't, and it shouldn't.

I am asking that you all, committee members, will put equity at the forefront of climate and clean energy policy conversations and that you will put forth legislation that directly benefits low income communities of color as well as future generations. Let's make a just transition to a cleaner, healthier future that doesn't leave any communities behind and create a pollution-free, just NV for all.