



February 8, 2024

To Assemblywoman Danielle Monroe-Moreno

Chair Monroe-Moreno and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Andrew Woods and I am Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). I am here in support of agenda item T. 1. - the request for financial support of Nevada's Regional Technology and Innovation Hub phase 2 application for the Economic Development Administration Tech Hubs competition. CBER is a fellow academic consortium partner under this application. We've been asked to study labor market outcomes and supply chain resiliencies as related to their application on the electric battery and lithium loop. We at CBER believe the lessons learned in how we engage, upskill, and support workers in the clean energy transition is important for the entire state. What we learn in supply chains will not only help us bring new industries to all parts of the state but also help with national security. From speaking with executives and workers, the heavy investment in the electric battery and lithium industry has spilled over to Southern Nevada, helping many of our emerging and growing battery manufacturers in Clark County. Lastly, we believe the need is great to diversify our economy so that our workers, businesses, public dollars, and government programs are better able to withstand the ups and downs of macro-US economic conditions.

Thank you.

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