

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Natha Anderson  
Nevada Assembly  
Chair, Natural Resources Committee  
**RE: AB109 Hearing**

The undersigned respectfully write to request that the Assembly Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing on AB109 this legislative session.

AB109 is needed because our current statutory framework allows certain industrial groundwater users to pump water without a permit from the State Engineer. AB109 aims to close this loophole and ensure the best accounting, oversight, and management of a scarce natural resource.

AB109 seeks fairness, clarity, and accountability. The intent of the legislation is simply to guarantee that all industrial groundwater pumpers undergo the standard water permitting process—a time-tested review that has bipartisan support and a long-track record as an integral component of Nevada Water Law. The bill does not jeopardize or penalize any industry. Rather, it provides a level playing field by bringing all industries in line with Nevada's gold-standard permitting requirements for groundwater use.

The rural communities, agricultural producers, Tribal governments, and public interest advocates that we represent all support AB109's goal of inclusive groundwater management. To the extent that some stakeholders may be concerned about the legislation's impacts, a committee hearing would provide respectful and informed discussion of these concerns in a public forum free of disinformation and ad hominem attacks.

Attached is an amendment that clearly affirms the fundamental purpose of AB109: to protect communities, local economies, water users, and the environment by eliminating industry-specific exemptions to fundamental provisions of Nevada Water Law. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (represents nine counties)  
Humboldt River Basin Water Authority (represents five counties)  
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe  
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Western Shoshone Defense Project  
Great Basin Water Network  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Great Basin Resource Watch  
Amargosa Conservancy  
Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition  
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter