



**Good for the Economy.
Good for the Environment.**

April 1, 2019

TO: SenGRI@sen.state.nv.us

RE: Support for SB 358 – Strengthen Nevada’s Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Members of the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure,

On behalf of E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) members, we support SB 358 - which would increase Nevada’s renewable portfolio standard to 50% by 2030, requiring electricity providers to get an increasing amount of electricity from clean, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital.

Nevadans strongly support a clean energy future. More than fifty-nine percent of voters approved the 2018 ballot measure to strengthen our RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) to the level proposed in SB 358. Adopting SB 358 would implement the will of the voters and put Nevada back among the top 10 clean energy states.

Developing Nevada’s renewable energy sources will lower costs, reduce emissions, and create jobs.

Nevada spends \$690 million a year to import out-of-state fossil fuels with volatile prices, and even a minor uptick in natural gas prices could dramatically increase energy. Meanwhile, the price of renewable energy has steadily declined as technology has improved. A study by Western Resource Advocates (WRA) found that 50% renewable energy could save Nevadans over \$192 million over the next twenty years. Clean energy means lower costs and stable prices for customers.

A 50% RPS would result in lower emissions of the carbon and smog-forming pollution that comes from burning dirty fuels. Carbon dioxide emissions cause harmful climate change, and nitrogen oxides have serious effects on human health, especially for the most vulnerable Nevadans.

In their two independent analyses, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and WRA found that increasing the RPS to 50 percent provides critical benefits for public health and the environment by reducing emissions of carbon dioxide by 28% in 2030 and nitrogen oxides by 13% in 2030. Renewables such as solar and wind use no water, unlike fossil fuel-fired power plant, and therefore conserve Nevada’s most scarce resource.

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Clean energy has been good for Nevada's people and economy, creating more than 32,200 clean energy jobs in industries from renewable energy and energy efficiency to battery storage, according to E2's soon to be released, 2019 Clean Jobs Nevada report.

Strengthening the RPS through SB 358 is a long-term investment in Nevada's workforce. A recent ICF economic study found that a stronger RPS would bring in more than \$539 million in wages, generate \$1.5 billion in economic activity, and support an additional 11,170 clean energy jobs in 2030. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that solar panel installer will be the fastest growing job in the country during the next decade, and wind turbine technician the second-fastest. SB 358 will help ensure Nevadans have access to these good-paying jobs in communities across the state.

SB 358 is a forward-looking, cost-effective policy that would provide valuable job and economic development benefits for Nevada. Equally important, the RPS would reduce pollution, resulting in public health and environmental benefits. In 2018, Nevada's voters made their opinion clear: they want more clean energy by 2030. We urge the Legislature to strengthen Nevada's RPS and support SB 358.

Respectfully,



Susan Nedell
E2 Mountain States Advocate
On behalf of E2 members and supporters