



March 9, 2021

Nevada Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson, City, Nevada 89701

RE: Conserve 30% of Nevada’s Lands and Waters by 2030 to Help Solve the Environmental Crisis

On behalf of 18 local businesses and organizations, we urge you to support AJR3, which commits Nevada to conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 necessary to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis by addressing rapid biodiversity loss and conserving natural ecosystems.

Nevada is on the frontlines of these issues. When it comes to biodiversity, topography, and geography, Nevada remains one of [the most diverse states in the nation](#). Our great state is home to some of the most unique, valuable wildlife species such as the Bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and burrowing owls. In fact, the state ranks 6th in the nation for the number of unique species, 9th in mammal diversity, and 11th in the nation in total species diversity. In sharp contrast, Nevada is 3rd in the nation for having the highest number of species at risk. To confront the rapid loss of Nevada’s precious wildlife, we must work to accelerate land and water conservation and restoration efforts in Nevada.

Conservation of our natural resources remains a priority for Nevadans. According to [a recent poll](#) from Colorado College, 82 percent of Nevadans support a national 30 by 30 benchmark and 90 percent agree that even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect the state’s land, water, and wildlife. This both affirms Nevadans’ acknowledgment of the threat of the climate crisis and calls on our legislators to take action on pro-conservation policy to safeguard our land, water, and wildlife well into the future.

A statewide 30 by 30 initiative can position Nevada as a leader in conservation. With 87 percent of our state's lands being federally managed, there is no doubt that our public lands will be key to reaching this ambitious goal and will allow our state to serve as the model for many others. Not to mention, conserving lands will help support a booming recreation economy that already contributes significantly to our state's revenue, boosts local businesses, and creates jobs -- most especially important as we continue to recover from this devastating pandemic.

According to world-renowned scientist Edward O. Wilson and others, lands and waters should be conserved in a natural condition if we want to prevent most wildlife species from going extinct, and if we want future generations to have continued access to clean water, clean air, and secure food supplies.

A state commitment of 30 by 30 would complement ongoing efforts of the protection of our natural resources. We hope you will support the ambitious 30x30 goal and continue working with Nevadans to develop creative conservation solutions that conserve our remaining wildlands and open spaces.

Signed,

Paul Selberg, Executive Director, Nevada Conservation League
Russell Kuhlman, Executive Director, Nevada Wildlife Federation
Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Annette Magnus, Executive Director, Battle Born Progress
Rachael Hamby, Senior Policy Analyst, Western Resource Advocates
Jocelyn Torres, Senior Field Director, Conservation Lands Foundation
Brian Beffort, Director, Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter
Meghan Wolf, Environmental Activism Manager, Patagonia
Michael Carroll, Senior Director, The Wilderness Society
Mauricia Baca, Nevada State Director, The Nature Conservancy
Taylor Patterson, Executive Director, Native Voters Alliance Nevada
Dylan Sullivan, Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council
Levi Kamolnick, State Director, Environment Nevada
Jennifer Cantley, CEO, One Source Network
Rachel Bergen, Executive Director, Get Outdoors Nevada
Tim Healion, Nevada Brand Ambassador, Laughing Planet Restaurants
John Hadder, Executive Director, Great Basin Resource Watch
Stephanie Forté, Chairperson, Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition