

**Testimony of Kristen Averyt, PhD
State Climate Policy Coordinator**

**Assembly Bill 380
Assembly Growth and Infrastructure
April 6, 2021**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Monroe-Moreno, members of the Committee. For the record, I am Kristen Averyt, State Climate Policy Coordinator. On behalf of the Nevada Climate Initiative, I am testifying neutral on Assembly Bill 380.

When natural gas is burned, whether at power plants to generate electricity, or directly in our homes and businesses to run our ovens, stoves, and water heaters, it releases CO₂. Simply, natural gas is a fossil fuel, and 45% of the total GHG emissions in our state come from burning natural gas.

Given the significant contribution of natural gas to the state's GHG emissions profile, and based on what we currently know, it will be necessary to transition from natural gas to achieve Nevada's net zero goal.

The topic of natural gas was contemplated in the State Climate Strategy that was released by the NV Climate Initiative in December of last year. The Strategy did not make recommendations about specific policies that should or should not be implemented. It did, however, provide a framework that is intended to help lawmakers shape policies so they work for Nevada.

As it relates to the natural gas and AB 380, the State Climate Strategy states the following:

- “In order to meet Nevada’s long-term goal of zero or near-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, transitioning away from natural gas is necessary.”
- “All avenues of emissions reductions must be considered and a long-term plan should be developed in the near term.”
- The Strategy describes scientific research that shows how burning natural gas diminishes air quality, both indoors and outdoors, and compromises public health.
- “Burning gas ovens can compromise indoor air quality and the health of families and those working in commercial kitchens”
- “...a phased transition from gas in the residential and commercial sectors will require careful planning and engagement”
- “A potential first step in a phased transition from gas would be to allow consumers the choice between gas and electric on existing buildings but require all-electric in new construction.”

- “Before eliminating natural gas as a fuel source entirely, consumer choice, especially in existing structures, as well as affordability and equity, should be carefully considered”

The intent of AB 380 is consistent with the State Climate Strategy in that it addresses the need to reduce GHG emissions from natural gas in order to meet Nevada’s 2050 net-zero emissions target.

Thank you for your time.