



April 26, 2021

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

RE: AJR 3

Dear Chairman Donate and Members of the Senate Natural Resource Committee,

As America's original conservationists, the hunting and fishing community has proactively supported strategic efforts to conserve the ecosystems and biodiversity of our state and nation for more than a century. By providing the bulk of the funding necessary to carry out conservation measures at the state level and ensuring management decisions are based on science, we are proud to have been the catalyst to position the United States as a global leader in natural resource and biodiversity protections.

Our expressed support for AJR3 is in recognition that we embrace the underlying principles of the 30x30 initiative, which aims to conserve 30 percent of the globe's lands and waters by 2030. Hunting and fishing have historically facilitated the establishment of enduring conservation measures on lands and waters to ensure their natural character, resources, and functions are maintained for current and future generations to use and enjoy.

We are committed to the success of the 30x30 initiative moving forward, in order to increase the likelihood of success, it should focus on strategies that target specific conservation needs with measurable outcomes. It is important that hunters and anglers are included as stakeholders to collaboratively inventory lands & waters already protected, inclusive of federal, state, county & private lands. In doing so, we should also define what it means to "protect" or "conserve" land and water. By identifying and defining protections already in place, state and federal agencies are

more readily able to identify additional conservation opportunities and implement efficient strategies that will result in genuine efforts to conserve and enhance our nation's biodiversity.

The hunting and fishing community looks forward to a collaborative process to establish 30x30 policies inclusive of:

- Recognizing the positive role that hunting and fishing play in conservation.
- Recognizing existing and varying management levels/actions that currently afford protections.
- Working to identify additional conservation and restoration needs and actions through an objective, science-driven, stakeholder-engaged process to determine the appropriate level of management actions necessary to meet biodiversity conservation goals.
- Developing protected area definitions that allow for well-managed and sustainable wildlife-dependent activities that are in balance with other management goals.
- Clearly defining roles and authorities for the entities charged with carrying out the 30x30 proposal.
- Implementation of the 30x30 initiative, beyond conducting the baseline inventory of lands and waters protected, that does not divert funding from the state's existing conservation and natural resource management activities.

We acknowledge AJR3's expression of support for protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters in Nevada and the United States by 2030 and look forward to ensuring that the hunting and fishing community has a supportive role in this process. Nevada's sportsmen and women have been instrumental in creating numerous conservation programs across the state, including the Wildlife Heritage Account, the Dream Tag, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and the establishment of Nevada's State Wildlife Management Area system and National Wildlife Refuges. These are just a few examples of existing programs that have helped conserve millions of acres that benefit Nevada's biodiversity and were established and implemented with the support of hunters and anglers.

We look forward to working with you on ways to ensure biodiversity, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and continue to recognize hunting and angling as a sustainable use of our natural resources. Outdoor recreation provides a critical connection to the unrivaled natural beauty of our lands and waters and is essential to ensuring the future stewardship of our natural resources

by inspiring the generations that follow us to follow our example - a proud legacy sportsmen and women have always maintained.

The undersigned organizations collectively recognize the important need for collaboration through all stages of implementation of this large-scale conservation effort and we reiterate our support of AJR3 while strongly encouraging you to elevate the priorities mentioned above as we work together to include all stakeholder interests in a collaborative process. It is imperative that we acknowledge the contributions already made towards 30x30's goals, invest in collaborative stakeholder outreach to integrate important communities around the state, and identify strategic implementation steps to generate measurable outcomes that genuinely enhance Nevada's biodiversity for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Larry Johnson  
President  
Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

Russell Kuhlman  
Executive Director  
Nevada Wildlife Federation

David Ricker  
Policy Chair  
Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers