



May 30, 2021

RE: Testimony in **Opposition to Assembly Bill 495** of the 2021 Nevada Legislature

Members of the Assembly Committee on: Assembly Ways & Means

On behalf of Republicans in the great State of Nevada, I would like to communicate our opposition to Assembly Bill 495 (AB 495).

Due to the left's greed and overreach they proposed resolutions and ballot initiatives meant to bankrupt out two largest industries and tax hard working Nevadans.

With an opening economy that is struggling back to existence from COVID shutdowns and large Federal transfers flooding the state, there is no reason to jeopardize this recovery by raising taxes. Especially, the introduction of taxes on an industry that will directly impact our vulnerable rural communities. Democrats in leadership want to tax mining and gaming out of Nevada. The Nevada Mining Association recognizes that this may be the softest blow to the industry as we see the threats surrounding mining tax increases throughout 2020-21 are a direct result of Democrat and special interest greed.

AB 495 would create a new excise tax on gold or silver mining companies. The Nevada Republican Party's Platform specifically states, "We support smaller government, lower taxes, less regulation, and more individual responsibility." Additionally, "We support the mining industry. We strongly oppose any laws, regulations, ordinances, or other legally binding actions that diminish the ability of the mining industry to discover and/or access minerals and mine them." AB 495, much like any new tax introduced in Nevada, is a clear violation of the Party's platform and an unnecessary solution to a problem brought by the Democrat's inability to lead and govern.

Democrats claim this is a need for education. While Republicans are the champions of school choice and believe that any student and their parents should have the option of better education regardless of their zip code, the changes and allowances of this bill towards school choice programs misses the mark. Only \$5 Million in tax credits will be awarded to the state's Opportunity Scholarship programs. The Democrat controlled legislature and special interest groups have denied impactful school choice legislation time and time again. Nevadans all recognize that our education system is broken, and serious reform is needed and can be achieved without it being the burden of taxpayers.

But that doesn't seem to be the goal of the legislature. Instead of working on ways to improve education results for the current curriculum, the Democrats in the legislature instead look for ways to expand the scope of what the schools teach, increasing costs and taking schools into territory that strays from the fundamentals of lifting student's literacy, basic math and science. These types of changes increase costs but do nothing



CHAIRMAN MICHAEL J. MCDONALD

to help schools better deliver the core academic curriculum and improve graduation rates.

For these reasons, the Nevada Republican Party opposes AB 495.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chairman Michael J. McDonald