

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Monday March 13, 2023 Start Time 4 p.m. Room 3143

Good Afternoon.

I would like to start off by thanking this committee for their continued efforts to help conserve water in Lake Mead, as we used less water last year with significantly more residents than we used in 2008. That being said, I stand in opposition to this bill.

As of this year we are allotted 275,000 acre feet of water, a cut of 25,000 acre feet from last year. According to the SNWA, 1.5 million acre feet of water is lost from Lake Mead yearly due to evaporation, transportation and inefficiency of the water system. This is over 5 times the acre feet that is allotted to Las Vegas. We have conserved, while other states have not and we are being forced to suffer in spite of our efforts.

Section 38.2 of this Bill, under Section 29, states that an unelected Board of Directors may limit, meaning cutoff a SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE to .5 acre feet of water per year. There is no mention of the number of people in the residence, the number of animals, or seasonal family members living in the residence. This is an arbitrary number that is historically based on 3 people per unit. Single Family Residence is not defined, as less than half of the homes in Las Vegas are actual Single Family Residences and more than half of our population lives in apartments and other multi family units. Furthermore, there are no restrictions in this bill on the enforcement action that the Board can take or the fines or rate increases that can be imposed.

Homeowner's will be discriminated against in this bill, as there is no mention of apartments or hotels.

This bill will have no effect on Lake Meads water levels, as 80% of the water we use is returned to Lake Mead. The decrease that you would force on us is infinitesimal in the whole of Lake Meads Water supply. Yet, it will destroy home values and therefore your tax base.

In closing, Lake Mead will Deadpool at 895 feet of water, at which point Las Vegas will still have full pipeline access to that remaining water, and we will still have power as only 4.6% of our local energy comes from Lake Mead. The remaining states will be the ones cut off, not us. Do not guarantee your next election loss by making the taxpaying, voting homeowners of Las Vegas your target. Instead partner with California on Desalinization Plants that will guarantee endless water for the next century.

Joseph DeMonte