

Good morning Honourable Members of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Affairs

My name is Juan Carlos Guardado, (J-U-A-N C-A-R-L-O-S G-U-A-R-D-A-D-O), and I am here on behalf of Chispa Nevada, an organization that is a member of the Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition. Our organization works with Latino communities to protect our families' rights to clean air, clean water in healthy neighborhoods, and a safe climate for future generations.

- First of all, I want to thank you for this space of expression for our community.
- I would like to mention that I came to the United States about EIGHT years ago.
- When I was TWO years old in this country, I started having breathing problems.
- At that time, I decided to see my doctor, because of the symptoms I was suffering.
- I remember the doctor asking me if I had had these discomforts before. And I said NO.
- So based on that diagnosis, he told me that my symptoms were probably caused because Las Vegas is a highly polluted city, and probably the cause of my medical ailments.
- So given these conditions in my health, he started prescribing me medication, to keep my asthma-related problems under control.
- Like me, many members of our community are experiencing the same health difficulties, and for that reason, I feel commitment to testify before this honorable committee.
- As residents of the state of Nevada, we are all witnessing the increase in pollution in our state; and that every day, instead of reducing, it increases more and more. Proof of this is that de agreement with the National Lung Association in the past year; we got a letter "F" for their State of the Air Report. The city of Las Vegas is also ranked #12 nationwide as one of the most polluted cities.
- Not only does Las Vegas receive failing grades because of our pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently named Nevada the second most polluted state in the entire country.
- Among other things, as if that were not enough, our largest water reserve is rapidly depleting, when not only we have benefited from this river, but

also states such as California, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. Being that in the last two years it has dropped approximately 45 feet.

- In such a way that I consider urgent the implementation of the Environmental Justice Committee in our state, since it would give our community, the opportunity to participate in the process and based on it, find a solution related to the environmental problems that they are facing, since these are the most affected by dirty air, contaminated water, and the different effects of environmental disruption
- In addition, providing recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Environmental Justice Commission would begin to minimize environmental damage to historically underserved communities in Nevada. Since, the recommendations of the Commission will be based on the contributions that the community makes to it. Finally, our community would have a voice and representation that would ensure environmental justice by ensuring that our rights to live in an environment that is healthy and healthy for our families and future generations are respected.
- Thank you for listening to me, and for listening to the Nevadans.