



March 28, 2023

To the Assembly Committee of Government Affairs,

I am the Environmental Justice Program Manager with the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada here in support of Assembly Bill 312.

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada was founded in 1994 by Nevada activists to build a more fair and just Nevada that puts people and planet first. We recognize that there are still serious roadblocks to achieving that Nevada, and having a commission that would look at the impacts of environmental stewardship on communities would be a huge step in the direction of achieving environmental justice.

Communities across Nevada experience environmental issues differently, and their health is paying the price. Native schoolchildren in Owyhee don't have access to clean drinking water. Latine communities disproportionately work outside in extreme heat. Freeways and other sources of pollution are disproportionately placed next to lower income communities. Black communities in Las Vegas have a disproportionate rate of asthma and other health issues directly caused by environmental injustices.

Having a commission to liaise between communities experiencing these harms, composed of people who have lived experiences with these issues and who are connected to impacted communities, would give communities more agency and ensure agencies consider community health in their regulatory processes.

Today I ask you to give the people a voice. Give the people a chance to stand up for their health, households, and homelands.

I ask you to think of the community members whose day to day lives are impacted by unjust environmental issues, not just industry representatives who are worried about their bottom line. Nevadans need this commission now- not in a few years or decades. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Olivia Tanager
Environmental Justice Program Manager
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada