

PERSHING COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AB387

My name is BENNIE HODGES.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify here today. I am testifying in support of AB387.

For over 30 years, I was the Manager of the Pershing County Water Conservation District which is the Irrigation District at Lovelock, Nevada. Our source of water is Rye Patch Reservoir which is fed by the Humboldt River. We use surface water for Flood Irrigation.

Since before 2017, Nevada Revised Statutes recognized surface water and ground water as two separate statutes. In 2017 the Nevada Legislature made a declaration that all water of the State should be managed Conjunctively, regardless of the source.

Passage of AB387 would give that State Engineer the tools to conjunctively manage surface and ground water.

For Example:

How drought and over pumping is affecting Pershing County Water Conservation District Farmers.

A Full allotment is 3.0 acre foot per year

Summary of PCWCD Allotment for the Last 20 years

3 years = -0- Allotment

9 years = allotment of 50% or less

3 years = greater than 50% allotment but less than a full allotment

5 years = 100% Allotment

Now lets look at Ground Water Pumpers Allotment:

Most Underground Agriculture Rights in the Humboldt River Basin are 4.0 acre foot per year.

Summary of Underground Agriculture Rights in the Humboldt River Basin for Last 20 years

20 years = 100% of Full Allotment

Keep in mind that all Surface Water in the Humboldt River is Senior in Priority to all Underground Water.

Passage of AB387 would give the state Engineer the tools to address this.

AB387 could also be used to address Ground Water Basin Over Appropriation.

Passage of AB387 is simply the Right thing to do!

Thank you.