

May 29, 2023

Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Transmitted via email: AsmWM@asm.state.nv.us

RE: Assembly Bill 84, Assembly Bill 349, and Assembly Bill 425

Dear Chair Monroe-Moreno and Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee:

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for three bills on the Committee's agenda for the May 30 meeting.

TNC supports Assembly Bill 84 to give annual permits for state parks and recreation areas to members of Nevada Tribes. We appreciate and enjoy our state parks and recreation areas. We recognize that these lands are the traditional territories of the Numu, Nuwu, Newe, and Washoe peoples. We feel it is important for Tribes to maintain their traditional ecological knowledge of these places. We support AB84 because it improves access for Tribal members to experience their cultural lifeways.

TNC supports Assembly Bill 349 to create a wildlife conservation program and fund. Nevada is one of the few Western states that lacks dedicated conservation funding to support wildlife and wildlife habitat. The creation of such an account is a good first step to meeting the conservation needs for our State and the need is great. For example, a recent analysis from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources found that the need for Conserve Nevada grants for the upcoming biennium is \$389 million dollars. Healthy ecosystems contribute to cleaner air and water. Nevada is fortunate to have rich biodiversity across our state. Restoring and maintaining habitat for Nevada's incredible wildlife is good investment in our future.

TNC supports Assembly Bill 425 to allow for the shared net metering at low-income housing. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our mission and we support policies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. AB 425 will would expand the opportunity for more Nevadans to benefit from renewable energy generation where they live. We support this bill because it promotes the equitable distribution of climate mitigation opportunities and outcomes, including for those in low-income housing.

We urge your support for AB 84, AB 349, and AB 425. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mauricia M.M. Baca
State Director
The Nature Conservancy in Nevada