

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Eighty-Second Session
February 21, 2023**

The Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order by Chair Howard Watts at 1:32 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [[Exhibit A](#)], the Attendance Roster [[Exhibit B](#)], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Max Carter
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblywoman Danielle Gallant
Assemblyman Bert Gurr
Assemblywoman Heidi Kasama
Assemblywoman Elaine Marzola
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblyman Cameron (C.H.) Miller
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson, Assembly District No. 30

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst
Jessica Dummer, Committee Counsel
Connie Barlow, Committee Manager



Kathy Biagi, Committee Secretary
Garrett Kingen, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Mitchell, Director, Nevada Office of Science, Innovation and Technology,
Office of the Governor
Brian Sandoval, President, University of Nevada, Reno
Dionne Stanfill, President, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno
Andy MacKay, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Kent Ervin, Ph.D., State President, Nevada Faculty Alliance
Isabella Hatt, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the
University of Nevada, Reno
Matthew Sauls, Policy Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the
University of Nevada, Reno
Peverel Shipley, Student Outreach Coordinator, Associated Students of the University
of Nevada, Reno
Amanda Vaskov, Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the
University of Nevada, Reno
Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Research and Project Management Division,
Department of Motor Vehicles
Patrick "Dave" Wiley, Manager, Central Services and Records Division, Department
of Motor Vehicles
Kirsten Stasio, CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund

Chair Watts:

[Roll was called. Committee rules and protocols were explained.] Welcome to today's meeting of the Assembly Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. We have all members present.

We have three items on our agenda today. I am going to take the items slightly out of order. We are going to begin with the presentation from the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology. We will then move into our bill hearing for today on Assembly Bill 151, and then we will finish with a presentation from the Nevada Clean Energy Fund. With that, we will move right into our agenda with a presentation from Director Mitchell, who I believe is joining us remotely. Thank you and welcome.

Brian Mitchell, Director, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, Office of the Governor:

I appreciate the opportunity to talk today about broadband and the opportunities we have coming before us over the next couple of years. There has never been a more exciting time to be in broadband policy, and I really appreciate the opportunity to share with you what we are doing and what folks can expect to see over the next couple of years.

I want to start off by talking about our vision for broadband in the state [page 2, [Exhibit C](#)]. Our vision is universal access, which means that every Nevadan, regardless of their race, income, or zip code, would have opportunity to have access to a high-speed Internet connection that is affordable, reliable, and scalable. What we mean by that is we want Internet infrastructure in the state that will grow and have the capacity to meet our bandwidth needs over time and that is affordable for people to access. How will we get there? We will get there only through having strong collaborations and partnerships across different state and local government and community organizations, as well as our strong partnerships with our provider community. Collaboration and partnerships are very important. We also will need to have efficient use of funds. While the amount of funding that is coming down the pike for us is significant, we know that it will not be sufficient to meet our universal access goals without having strategies in place that will braid and weave funding together from different sources in order to most efficiently use those funds based on the rules of the funds.

The final thing I will talk about briefly is that when we make investments, we want to focus on making long-term investments. As great as it is to do things in broadband, we do not want to end up back in the same place five or ten years from now because we have only built short-term investments and we need to make more investments. I think we are going to be focusing on making long-term investments that will be generational and continue to have an impact on Nevadans' lives over the next 20 to 30 years.

I want to start off by talking about digital equity and defining what that means [page 3]. Infrastructure sucks a lot of the oxygen out of the room. But without digital equity, none of the infrastructure work that we will be doing over the next several years will really mean a whole lot. You can really think about digital equity as people infrastructure. I think digital equity can easily be explained by describing it or likening it to a three-legged stool. The first leg of the stool is related to affordability. Can individuals afford a high-speed, reliable, scalable broadband connection in their home or in their business? It does not really matter if we build fiber all the way to your house. If you cannot afford it, you are just as unconnected as you would be living in the middle of nowhere. Everything that we do has an eye towards affordability and can that person or community afford their Internet connection.

The second leg of the stool for digital equity is device access. Do you have access to a connected device that is modern and able to handle the applications that are commonly used on the Internet today? I think we have all heard stories of kids in school who were writing their term papers during the pandemic on a cell phone. If that is your only access to the Internet, it is just wholly insufficient for modern, effective, and equitable use of the Internet. We want to make sure everyone in the state has access to a connected device that they can use, whether it is for education, looking for jobs, online telehealth, or just keeping in touch with family and friends.

The final leg of the three-legged stool is digital literacy or skills. Digital literacy is a concept of knowing how to use the Internet for more than just watching videos online. What we want is to help folks with where they are to get the kinds of skills that they need. This can be as basic as learning how to turn your Wi-Fi on and can be more advanced for learning a basic

understanding of how to use Web tools, Microsoft Office, or things that folks might need in order to get a job. Without each one of these three things, none of the infrastructure that we put in will have a meaningful effect on Nevadans' lives.

As a part of the Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act, there is a \$2.75 billion nationwide funding source called the Digital Equity Act [page 4, [Exhibit C](#)]. Within the Digital Equity Act, there are three pots of money. The first pot is a state planning grant which OSIT [Office of Science, Innovation and Technology] has received. With it, we will develop a statewide Digital Equity Plan. Once we have developed our statewide Digital Equity Act Plan, we will unlock state capacity grant funding. The State Capacity Grant will allow us to implement the strategies that we identify in our Statewide Digital Equity Plan. There is also a \$1.25 billion nationwide competitive pot of money that the state will not be eligible for, but any nonprofit or community organization that engages in digital equity work will be eligible for.

What are we doing with our Digital Equity Act Planning grant? We are doing a lot of community outreach and engagement [page 5]. We are going to be visiting every county in the state and talking with stakeholders and the public community organizations to understand needs and to understand the community assets that each individual location has. Then we will develop strategies that can meet the needs we see throughout the state. When the state receives its State Capacity Grant, the funding decisions must be based on the plan. One of the things we tell stakeholders is their participation in the planning process will directly affect how the state spends its Digital Equity Capacity grant funds. We do not plan to create new state programs or new state capacity in this regard. Rather, all the funding will be pushed down to the local level in a competitive grant program to local actors, community groups, entities, and nonprofits, et cetera, that have the existing relationships with the folks who need the digital equity supports and initiatives. We plan to invest in local communities.

We have created a number of different mapping resources [page 6] that are all available on our website and describe the scope of what is going on in the digital equity world. They inform where we feel, according to the data, would be a good place for us to start looking for or to start engaging with communities with regard to their digital equity needs. The map on the far right that is orange and yellow is the enrollment rate for the Affordable Connectivity Program. This is a program that provides a \$30-a-month subsidy for anyone who qualifies for Medicaid, SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program], TANF [Temporary Assistance to Needy Families], SSI [Supplemental Security Income], or senior rental assistance. You also qualify if you have a student in the school lunch program, if you are a college student who received a Pell Grant, and on and on. Basically, if you are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, you qualify. On the map in the lower right corner, the darker areas of that map show a greater enrollment rate in the Affordable Connectivity Program. We could really use all the help we can get to spread the word about the Affordable Connectivity Program. If you are interested in partnering with us to reach out to your constituents and to help them get enrolled and connected, then please let our office know and we will be happy to provide you with some outreach materials that you can send to your constituents.

I would now like to talk about infrastructure [page 7, [Exhibit C](#)]. Here I have modeled or visualized the different broadband funding sources that we are tracking. When we talk about needing to efficiently weave together different funding sources for broadband, these are some of the funding sources we are monitoring that will either come to the state via formula or the state will competitively apply for in order to meet our broadband needs.

I would like to talk about what we are doing in Phase I of the High-Speed Nevada initiative. Then I will preview what we are going to do in Phase II. In Phase I, one of the things we have realized is a lot of communities throughout the state lack the kind of broadband infrastructure they need in order to have a robust, high-speed, affordable residential service. So, we began in Phase I by focusing on community anchor institutions like libraries and schools as well as state and local government facilities. You will see those represented by the gray dots on the map on the right [page 9]. We identified over 1,000 different state and local facilities and are currently in an RFP [request for proposal] process to solicit bids to serve these state and local government facilities and the community anchor institutions. While it is certainly important to provide better connectivity to these facilities, we also believe this will set us up well for Phase II, when we can then branch off of the infrastructure that we build in Phase I to better connect individual residences and businesses that are underserved today.

In Phase II we will use funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [page 11], as well as the Capital Projects Fund to begin to better connect individual residences and businesses. The BEAD [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment] Fund, is a \$42.5 billion fund the state will receive a formula grant from in order to build out to last mile or residential areas of the state that are unserved or underserved. Regarding the timeline [page 12], one of the questions I get asked frequently is when are you going to connect my house or when are you going to bring better broadband to our community. Believe me, nobody wants to start digging up roads and laying infrastructure more than I do. But there is a lengthy process that was outlined in the law and by our federal partners wherein we have to submit plans, do community engagement, and then identify the areas that are most underserved. Then we have to go through a competitive process to allocate funds to providers that are interested in serving those areas. This is a process that will take place over the next several years, and by 2026 we hope to be finished and have reached our universal access goals.

One of the things that is really important is we have an accurate accounting for where unserved and underserved locations are [page 13]. The FCC [Federal Communications Commission] has been tasked with creating a map of all the locations in the state or in the country and whether they are served or unserved. There is a process wherein if states, governments, or even individual residents feel the map is inaccurate, folks can submit challenges to the map. So far, we have submitted over 46,000 challenges to correct either missing locations or locations where we felt the level of service that was described in the map was not accurate. This challenge process is ongoing. This is important because how much money we will get to serve those people is based on the number of unserved locations we have in the state. Therefore, we want to make sure the map is as accurate as possible so we get the state's fair share of funding for this.

The final thing I will talk about is how we are proceeding through this process [page 14, [Exhibit C](#)]. Our role is community engagement to understand needs throughout the state, to talk to folks about what kind of infrastructure they would like to see, and to build local capacity of our partners in local communities. Once funding is received, we will allocate that in a fair, open, and competitive process to provide our partners that are aligned with our mission to provide affordable, reliable, and scalable Internet service to everyone. There will be a lot of federal reporting involved, and we will also take care of that. With that, Mr. Chair, I am happy to take any questions.

Chair Watts:

Thank you very much for that overview, Director Mitchell. I know you provided some of this information to the Ways and Means Committee, but I think it is particularly helpful for members of our Committee to be aware of as well. Members, do we have any questions?

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

I am going to take this opportunity to ask a question I did not ask in the money committee the other day. Thanks for doubling back on some of the topic issues. You talk about affordable, reliable, scalable services for unserved or underserved communities. There was a part of your presentation where you could have a \$30 credit. Essentially, you could have access to broadband for free. But is that a high enough speed of broadband to be able to serve, let us say, a mom and two kids who are both in school? Is there enough access at that level? How do we know we are providing enough broadband access for the typical family of four to be able to have their devices online?

Brian Mitchell:

I think you have asked an extremely important question. That is something that we need to tackle. It is not enough to provide someone with a subsidy for dial-up. If all someone gets for their subsidy is an Internet connection that is very slow and does not meet their needs, then they are not really connected. The federal government has established certain guidelines for what constitutes high-speed Internet and any funding we receive must build out infrastructure that is capable of providing speeds at those levels that have been defined by the federal government. The affordable plan must provide a minimum speed that meets those definitions. I agree with you 100 percent that folks on the affordable connectivity program deserve every bit as fast a connection as folks who are buying at retail, and so everybody who is on that plan will have to meet the minimum specifications in order to receive funding.

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

Can you clarify for us what you mean by "build out"? I am old school, so I come from the days when we would lay wire for telephones and that was used for our dial-up service. Then time passed and we were laying cable for Internet. Is that still part of the infrastructure that is needed or is everything cloud-based?

Brian Mitchell:

If you do not mind, I will take a minute to provide a brief overview of the different types of broadband technologies and which ones we will fund. There are wired technologies, wireless

technologies that can be used for broadband, and there are also satellite technologies. The wired technologies include fiber; cable, which you might get from your cable company if you have Internet through your cable company; and then there is copper, which is like the telephone wires that you mentioned and that is where DSL [digital subscriber line] comes from. You can also get your Internet wirelessly. I am not talking about cell phone kind of Internet, but there are wireless providers that provide a fixed wireless connection to homes. And I am sure many of you have heard of companies like Starlink that provide a satellite service to consumers.

The Internet is really built on fiber. Even companies that are cable or DSL providers use backbones that are all fiber fed. Fiber has been identified by the federal government as a priority for us to connect homes with. Where it makes sense, we will push as much fiber as we can into the residential ecosystem. We will use as much fiber as we can to connect homes because fiber is the technology where you can get the fastest speeds that are most scalable. It is also the longest-term solution. A fiber solution is a 30-year investment or a 30-year asset. Having said that, the downside to fiber is it is more expensive to deploy than satellite or fixed wireless. There are going to be some areas of the state where it might be too expensive to use fiber for the home, and those areas might be where density levels are such that it is just too expensive and we do not have enough money. These are conversations we need to have with communities about the infrastructure that is possible in their community. When done correctly, a wireless solution for a very low-density community can be just as fast and just as reliable as other technologies, so I think fiber will be the first thing that we do. Then we will follow up the wireless in areas where we cannot.

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

I hope you are working with local municipalities, especially in urban communities where there is construction going on, so that they can assist as roads are being worked on, to lay conduit so that the fiber can be deployed easily and not have to cut streets again. I think that could be very helpful. We have a lot of construction going on in urban Las Vegas. My community has issues with connectivity; we saw that during the pandemic. We had children sitting by buses trying to get Internet. If we had conduit already in the streets where it could be deployed with easy pulling of wire, it would be wonderful. I hope you will do that. If you need help, we are here. I hope that is an option you are looking at.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. I believe the Department of Transportation (NDOT) has incorporated some of that. But again, we know there are a lot of different entities doing a lot of different road projects, and it definitely makes sense when we are doing some infrastructure projects to get the most bang for our buck and plan ahead as much as we can.

Assemblywoman Peters:

I appreciate the opportunity to follow up on those questions because I had related questions pertaining to the use of fiber versus satellite. You touched a little bit on the satellite options or the wireless options as something to be considered after we have explored broadband as far as it can go. Are you working on integrating into your planning where wireless or

satellite might be a higher benefit to the state? We were just talking about areas in the state where it does not make a lot of sense to dig up the road again or try to lay fiber. But that does not mean accessibility should be negated. It just means we must approach it in a different manner. What are some opportunities in that space? If you can point me to a plan that I can look at, that would be great. If not, what are we working on to get there?

Brian Mitchell:

In follow-up to the previous question as well as yours, the Department of Transportation, and OSIT have worked together on what was called Dig Once and joint trenching legislation back in 2017. So there are *Nevada Revised Statutes* that allow for multiple projects to be put into the same trench so we dig up the road fewer times. Nobody likes construction on the roads and certainly that will save expense. So, NDOT is a great partner of ours in that sense. When it comes to making decisions about how much fiber and where other technologies come into the solution, I would like to describe a little bit of the process that we are going through to determine just that. Number one, our process begins with a lot of local engagement to understand the current connectivity situation in every community in the state, whether it is an urban community in the middle of Las Vegas or Reno, or the most remote communities elsewhere. Then an assessment of existing infrastructure is made. Throughout our assessment, we are in the process of developing cost-modeling tools that will help us to understand how much it would cost to deploy fiber to the home in a given location, or whether it might make more sense to have wireless be part of the solution in a given location.

The other thing I will mention is we will not be able to finalize some of those plans until after June 30. I did not get into detail with this in my presentation, but the largest source of funding that we have available is the fund I mentioned briefly. No state will find out what their allocation is until June 30, and that is when our partners at the NTIA [National Telecommunications and Information Administration] will inform all states how much of that \$42.5 billion each state is receiving. Once we know how much money we have to spend, it will inform our direction in terms of the technology mix of how much fiber goes where.

Assemblywoman Peters:

Just for the record, I think it is important for us to address these two needs simultaneously and not let our rural communities hang out there without service while we are digging in the ground when we could offer those services in some way or form before we get the broadband laid out.

Assemblywoman Gallant:

Thank you, Assemblywoman Peters, for pointing that out. You are talking about how we have to meet certain benchmarks in terms of upload and download speeds. Do you know what those are in order to access that money?

Brian Mitchell:

What we are planning to deploy is a 100 megabits-per-second download and 100 megabits-per-second upload. That comes from the federal guidelines.

Assemblywoman Gallant:

Does that exist on the West Coast or anywhere in Nevada?

Brian Mitchell:

Yes, there are places in Nevada where you can have those speeds.

Assemblywoman Gallant:

We could, but do we currently have those speeds?

Brian Mitchell:

There are companies today that offer those types of speeds. Having said that, for any new infrastructure that is built, the provider that builds the infrastructure would have to offer a plan that meets those speeds to consumers.

Chair Watts:

Director, could you provide a little bit of follow-up information? I know this is also a provider issue, but I think it might be of interest to the Committee. Could you give us a little information, at a high level, on some of the speeds that are provided and offered and put a little context around those. I know some providers go up to gigabit speeds, which are, I think, 10 times the 100 that you have discussed.

Any other questions from the Committee members? Seeing none, thank you for providing us with this presentation. Again, I think this has come up in the budget committee as well, but we know your agency has a lot on its plate with managing many different programs and parts of funding. While the need is great and urgent, we know you are certainly going to have your hands full over the next few fiscal years implementing everything that is on the books. We look forward to a continued partnership to make sure we get affordable access deployed across Nevada as soon as possible.

Brian Mitchell:

Thank you for having me, and I look forward to the partnership as well.

Chair Watts:

We are going to go on to the next item on our agenda and that is our bill hearing for today. We are going to be hearing Assembly Bill 151, which provides for the issuance of special license plates commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nevada, Reno. Welcome to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure, Assemblywoman Anderson, Mr. President. I will now open the hearing.

Assembly Bill 151: Provides for the issuance of special license plates commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nevada, Reno. (BDR 43-89)

Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson, Assembly District No. 30:

Thank you, Chair Watts. My name is Natha Anderson, and it is my honor to represent Assembly District 30. I am a proud second-generation University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) graduate. I followed in both my parents' footsteps, majoring in education. I am here today with UNR President, Brian Sandoval, and Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) President, Dionne Stanfill, to present Assembly Bill 151, a bill proposing legislation to create a license plate in celebration of our sesquicentennial, or 150th birthday. Although not mentioned in the language, the proceeds from the license plate will be directed into the university student food pantry known as Pack Provisions. The food pantry serves students, faculty, and staff. The need, it sounds like, has increased over the last few years. I think it is wonderful that the university has made the decision to utilize the funds in this way.

In October of 1874, seven students—seven, fewer than the back row of this Committee—began to study the topics of agriculture, mechanical arts, and mining. These seven students were the first to study at the University of Nevada in Elko. In 1885, the campus was moved to Reno. In the spring of 1886, it welcomed 35 students. The numbers grew by leaps and bounds, and they became members of the Wolf Pack Nation. Still not exactly booming, steadily this number has grown to the current student population of 20,945 and we have gained Tier 1 or R1 status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, a classification we share with our sibling university, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I believe the University of Nevada, Reno has many plans to celebrate our sesquicentennial, and with the Chair's permission, I would like to have UNR President Brian Sandoval continue the presentation. As a quick side note, President Sandoval is one of Nevada's former governors and also a former Assembly member. It is my honor to turn it over to UNR President Sandoval.

Chair Watts:

Thank you, Assemblywoman. Welcome back, President Sandoval.

Brian Sandoval, President, University of Nevada, Reno:

I want to thank Assemblywoman Anderson for the opportunity to present today and thank you, Committee, for hearing this bill. I do not have a lot to add, and I think the founders of the state in their wisdom in 1864 created the Nevada System of Higher Education. Ten short years later, as the Assemblywoman described, it established this campus. A little bit of trivia: when it moved to Reno, the Legislature had a vote and they voted to move the campus, because there were only seven students, to Reno versus Carson City by one vote. It could have been the University of Nevada at Carson City. During those years, obviously, the campus has grown. The Nevada System of Higher Education has grown, and I was thinking about it, you only turn 150 once. The state enjoyed its sesquicentennial nine short years ago, and again, this university will be celebrating its sesquicentennial next year, beginning October 12, which is the anniversary of the university. As the Assemblywoman said, there

are a series of events that we are going to have on campus throughout that year from October 12, 2023, through 2024, culminating on the 150th birthday on October 12, 2024. This is just a concept, but recently we had a logo designed for the sesquicentennial. There were three candidates for that, and one of those was selected by a popular vote of several thousand. Again, this is not a final version, but I thought sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. Here are a couple of versions that you can see, and you can see the logo there. [Two logo signs were shown.] To put things into perspective, that is Morrill Hall, which is the iconic building on the campus, built in 1885-86 when Grover Cleveland was President of the United States. With that, we are grateful for your hearing this bill and would appreciate your positive consideration.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

Since the practice and core value of the University of Nevada, Reno has always been about student voices, at least from my experience, with the Chair's permission I would ask for ASUN Student Body President Dionne Stanfill to continue our presentation.

Chair Watts:

Of course. Thank you very much. Welcome, Madam President.

Dionne Stanfill, President, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno:

Let me just start by saying how excited I am for the university's 150th birthday. Yesterday, as many of you know, was ASUN's day at the Legislature. As ASUN president, one of my pillars in my campaign is history. In that pursuit, our campus has so much history and symbolism. For example, the first museum in the entire state of Nevada is on our very own campus. In part of that campaign, we are relaunching the *Artemisia* yearbook. I was just talking to President Sandoval about this the other day. It was in the 1986 edition when he was involved in ASUN. He has a quote that says he was so excited to be a part of the committee that celebrated the university's 100th birthday.

For the record, I want to say how thankful ASUN is for even considering this donation to Pack Provisions. Not quite as old as the university, it is celebrating its 30th birthday this year. Started in 1993, Pack Provisions has a huge impact on our campus, not only to the undergraduate students but to graduate students, faculty, and staff. Last fall alone, we had over 4,000 visits for provisions. Nearly one-fourth of the student body population, through a course of three survey waves, reports facing food insecurity so it certainly is an issue on our campus. Since 2021, we have prepared to try to accommodate a 300 percent increase in donations through Pack Provisions. It is certainly a very important service on our campus. Again, I want to say on the record: thank you very much.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

The bill itself is pretty straightforward. You will notice that it adds, in section 1, the ability to be able to utilize the 150th anniversary license plate because, as the president brought up, you only celebrate 150 once. With that, I think all three of us are more than happy to take any questions, comments, or concerns. Again, thank you for the opportunity.

Chair Watts:

Members, questions?

Assemblywoman Peters:

I have mixed feelings about this because it is beautiful to celebrate the history of our state, but it is dreadful that our students need to be using food pantry facilities in order to live in our community and go to our educational institution. I have mixed feelings about this particular bill, and I am working in a separate committee on addressing some of these issues. My question has to do with the fee and how many plates you expect will sell. I imagine you have a quantity in mind. How much of the fee, that \$35 initial fee and the \$10 annual fee, will go to Pack Provisions?

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I am going to ask President Sandoval to answer that.

Brian Sandoval:

My recollection is you have to have at least 500 plates in order to qualify to have the plate made and disseminated. I am confident that we are going to have well in excess of that. Whatever the cost of the plate is, 100 percent of it will go to Pack Provisions. I share your concern with regard to food insecurity. We are also providing some internal resources to make Pack Provisions even more accessible. We are working with a local nonprofit as well in that regard. But if it is the \$35, then \$35 will go to Pack Provisions. When you renew the license plate, that amount will also go to Pack Provisions.

I want to state for the record what we anticipate: this plate will be similar to the sesquicentennial plate that was made for the state sesquicentennial. It will only be available temporarily; it will not be forever. We are very well aware that there may be other very worthwhile nonprofits or entities that are seeking a license plate as well. We do not want to be a line jumper, but as I said, we have a very finite amount of time within which to introduce that plate and have it be popular. I do not have an exact number for you, but we have tens of thousands of alumni and supporters throughout the state of Nevada who I think would very much like to have the plate.

Chair Watts:

Thank you very much. And if there are any additional questions, you can go directly to the member in responding. We will start with Assemblyman Gurr and then Assemblywoman Dickman.

Assemblyman Gurr:

It is not really a question; it is a comment. Ms. Stanfill comes from our little community, and she does us a really proud job. I am so proud of you.

Assemblywoman Dickman:

Thank you, Governor Sandoval. It is so good to see you—reminds me of 2015. Just a quick question about if the plate is temporary. I have a life plate and that one you cannot still get. But when I renew, I can keep it. Would this be the same?

Brian Sandoval:

The answer is yes, although you may not be able to get that plate, for example, after two years; you will be able to keep that plate and every time you renew it, the proceeds will go to the Pack Provisions—similarly, as I mentioned, to the state sesquicentennial license plate. If my recollection is correct, the proceeds went to the state museums and the state parks. They continue to do so each time you renew that plate.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. Members, additional questions? I really appreciate both the questions and the responses to them. I am familiar with some of the plates. I know the city of Las Vegas also did a commemorative plate and that has helped fund some arts and cultural activities. I think it helped support the initiative to restore the Huntridge Theater in the district that I represent, so I am familiar with this. This is less of a question but a request for follow-up. Just to make sure, I think we are going to need to do an amendment on the bill, first of all to make sure we are clarifying where the funds are going so that they benefit Pack Provisions and to make sure we have a similar set-up. In terms of the limited release of the plate, I think one of the more recent ones we did was celebrating women's suffrage, and I believe that was another short-term plate issue. We want to make sure that is the case, and I think we have the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the room who may be able to provide some additional information in the neutral position. Also, I do believe that the part of this about jumping the line, so to speak, is that there are none of those plate requirements. We are essentially going to put you in there, allow folks to get the plate for a limited time, and then lock the door on that plate. I just wanted to make sure my understanding of the intent is the same that you have as the sponsor.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is what I understand as well. I greatly appreciate the amendment for the money. I totally agree with the fact that we need to clarify the destination of the money. I share the same concerns around how sad it is that we have to do this. But I am happy that we at least have one way to be able to raise money for it. Also, the fact that there is a short-term time frame to be able to get the plate makes complete sense to me.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. We appreciate that. I have one other question. I believe UNR already has a license plate. Can you briefly describe where the proceeds from the UNR plate go?

Brian Sandoval:

Yes, the university has an athletics plate similar to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas plate and the proceeds go to the athletic department.

Assemblywoman Kasama:

Thank you for the celebration. We look forward to helping the school with this. My question is probably more for the DMV. Is it typical that the special license plates just have a two-year life and then, after that time, they disappear because we have a growing number of special license plates out there? I am wondering how that all works in general, and I do not know if anybody is available to answer that now. If not, I will research it later.

Chair Watts:

Perhaps, Assemblywoman, we can also discuss the proliferation of license plates with the DMV in the neutral position.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

Unless somebody is here, I am more than happy to get that information for you. I do not see anybody coming up so I will get the information for you.

Chair Watts:

Members, any additional questions? Seeing none, I am going to open testimony on Assembly Bill 151. We will begin with testimony in support and will start with testimony here in Carson City.

Andy MacKay, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I am not in my capacity as the executive director of the Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association, just as a proud fourth-generation alumnus of the University of Nevada. This is a cool bill. It goes to a great cause. I, too, have a University of Nevada athletic plate amongst other specialty plates. They go to great causes, and this was amazing to listen to this. I enthusiastically support it, and I am going to buy one and put it, probably, on my wife's car. I just want to put that on the record. Thank you for your time.

Kent Ervin, Ph.D., President, Nevada Faculty Alliance:

We support the bill. We share the concerns about food insecurity of our students. This is a nice symbolic gesture towards that problem with some monetary benefits, also. We support the bill.

Isabella Hatt, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno:

I am within the University of Nevada, Reno, associated with ASUN as the assistant director of government affairs. We were here yesterday, as I am sure you all saw. My support for Pack Provisions lies in the service's fundamental mission to offer free resources that provide me, other students, staff, and faculty support to achieve academic success through access to food, including produce and protein, as well as hygiene supplies that can be hard to come by at school and in the community. Pack Provisions provides a safety net for me and others with food insecurity. I am a full-time student taking 18 undergraduate credits while also working two jobs and worrying about all of the other major concerns that come with being a college student. Pack Provisions, with continued funding, can ensure I have somewhere to

get food and hygiene supplies while I am struggling financially. Pack Provisions eliminates barriers for me and others while experiencing financial hardships, as well as provides a safe space for continued social wellness. Thank you.

Matthew Sauls, Policy Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno:

I serve as the policy director for government affairs within the ASUN. As you all know, we were here yesterday giving out some pins and going to a few meetings. I want to talk about my personal experience with the food pantry. I volunteer there whenever I have time, along with other organizations that I am a part of. You can see just how much it means to students who come through, how easy it is and how accessible it is. A lot of people love coming to it because it is a judgment-free zone. A lot of students would rather not go out in public to other food pantries and feel as though they might be judged or looked at differently. They love coming to the food pantry within the Center for Student Engagement, as it is a very easy and accessible experience. Along with that, I also look forward to getting a license plate, as I will soon be registering my car in Nevada. I am looking forward to that plate as it is something that I will be getting soon. Thank you very much.

Peveler Shipley, Student Outreach Coordinator, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno:

I am a mathematics and economics student at the university, and I would like to voice my support for A.B. 151 because Pack Provisions is an awesome resource for students living on campus and in the community. As someone who was raised by a single mother for a large portion of my childhood, I know firsthand how crucial food pantries and similar resources can be to families and individuals in need. I relied on them myself when I was younger, and as a member of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, I have seen how many students rely on Pack Provisions for their basic necessities of food, toiletries, and such. It is a great resource. It helps build community and helps students who may be food insecure or otherwise insecure. I will also comment that I have a license plate myself. I am going to get my parents to get one of these. Hopefully they come out. Thank you.

Amanda Vaskov, Director, Government Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno:

I just want to echo my fellow students' comments here today regarding Pack Provisions. Aside from food, it does provide personal hygiene items as well as clothing. This clothing is really important because we provide coats, which are really necessary for Reno winters. As for personal hygiene, I know on more than one occasion I myself have stopped by for feminine hygiene care products in a time of need. That resource is really important for students, and we thank you, Assemblywoman Anderson, for writing this bill alongside us.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. Before you leave, Ms. Vaskov, I think we have a question from Assemblywoman Peters.

Assemblywoman Peters:

I have some coats. Can I donate them to you or do you have a process for obtaining coats that you have in the Pack Provisions?

Amanda Vaskov:

My understanding is you can do that and I can help you do that.

Assemblywoman Peters:

All right. Thank you so much. I appreciate that.

Chair Watts:

Wonderful. We will have Mr. Flores connect with you to make that happen. Anyone else wishing to provide testimony in support of A.B. 151? Seeing no one, do we have anyone wishing to provide testimony and support by phone? [There was no one.] With that, we will move on to testimony in opposition of Assembly Bill 151. [There was none.] We will take testimony in the neutral position on Assembly Bill 151. Welcome, Mr. Sever.

**Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Research and Project Management Division,
Department of Motor Vehicles:**

I am also a proud University of Nevada, Reno graduate. We are neutral on A.B. 151, but we are happy to work with the university on it. We did want to point out some suggested items which I believe the chair has already mentioned. One, sesquicentennial license plates usually have a sunset date including a three- to five-year timeline when they are available to the public, and an additional five years to order duplicate plates. The demand for these kinds of plates does decline after the first couple of years they are available, and there are a lot of special plates out there already. Second, a clarification is needed as to where the funding goes for the license plate. I know the charitable organization was mentioned in the testimony, but we do like to see that in the bill, so we are happy to work with the bill sponsor on these suggestions, and we can answer any questions.

Chair Watts:

Thank you very much. My apologies to the license plate factory on potentially adding another design into the mix. Members, any questions for the DMV?

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

Is there a minimum amount we are trying to achieve with the initial issue of this plate?

Sean Sever:

I also have Dave Wiley here, who is the manager of our license plate factory. The answer to the question is no, there would not be a requirement going through the bill.

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

I want to follow up. Can you break out the fee? What portion of the fee goes towards the plate and DMV, and what portion of the fee goes towards the nonprofit?

Sean Sever:

We will have to get back to you on that question.

Assemblywoman Kasama:

How long do these special plates last? Is there a time limit? Is each plate different? Are some two years, some five or ten? How, in general, does the whole program work?

Patrick "Dave" Wiley, Manager, Central Services and Records Division, Department of Motor Vehicles:

This particular plate will be exempt from the requirements to maintain a minimum number of active registrations because this will have a sunset time frame on there, more than likely. The other charitable plates generally have to either maintain 1,000 registrations or 3,000 active registrations to stay on the charitable lists.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. And just to make sure that all the members are clear, for anyone who is new to the joy of special license plates, we have had a variety of requirements that have changed over time. One of the main ones for some of the folks who are seeking a competitive process to be able to get a license plate is that they meet a 1,000-plate threshold and then maintain that in order to continue having the plate offered. Similar to any plate after it is discontinued, whoever keeps those plates and continues paying the renewals, those continue to go to support whatever cause is associated with them until they eventually all phase out. And I think we have got a few plates floating out there that have very few left. What is being discussed here is something that bypasses that process somewhat but has a legislatively set deadline, at which point those plates will no longer be issued.

Dave Wiley:

Yes, you are correct. Even when a plate is no longer for sale, as long as somebody renews the registration, the plate will remain active. In that particular case, the monies that are collected will continue to go to the charitable organization.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. We look forward to your working with the bill sponsor and, to the extent necessary, our Committee staff in making some of those adjustments. Anyone else wishing to provide testimony in neutral on Assembly Bill 151? [There was no one.] Does anyone have any closing remarks? [There was no one.] With that, we thank you all for your time, and I will close the hearing on Assembly Bill 151.

That brings us to the last item on our agenda today, which is a presentation from the Nevada Clean Energy Fund. Director Stasio, thank you for joining us today.

Kirsten Stasio, CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund:

I am looking forward to speaking to you about the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and how we are working to advance Nevada's clean energy economy. I will start by talking about what the Nevada Clean Energy Fund is. For short, we are called NCEF, and NCEF was

established by state legislation in 2017 in Senate Bill 407 of the 79th Session. We are established as a nonprofit organization to accelerate investments in clean energy projects in the state in a way that reduces energy costs, creates jobs, improves the standard of living for Nevadans, and addresses climate change [page 2, [Exhibit D](#)].

The gap we are designed to fill that is too often a barrier for clean energy projects is access to capital. Access to capital can be a challenge for many reasons, and for a variety of stakeholders, including creditworthiness standards are not being met, the check size is too small to be attractive to traditional lenders, or additional education and technical assistance are required to make a project happen.

The Board of NCEF, as defined by statute, includes nine members [page 3]. There are four state officials who are ex-officio members: the director of the Governor's Office of Energy, Dwayne McClinton; the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Tom Burns; Nevada's Real Estate Division Administrator, Sharath Chandra; and the Financial Institutions Division Commissioner, Sandy O'Laughlin. Another five members of the board are nominated by various groups in Nevada and appointed by the Governor. Nominations are made by the Boards of County Commissioners of Clark County, Washoe County, and collectively the remaining counties in Nevada; and by state labor organizations and the State Contractors' Board. The individuals filling those positions are respectively, Les Lazareck, Jason Geddes, Robert Johnston, Chris Wile, and Guy Snow. The Board brought me on a little over a year ago as executive director and CEO of NCEF to work with the Board to launch NCEF's programs. To give you a sense of my background, I have over a decade of experience in the energy sector, including working to deploy hundreds of millions of dollars into renewable energy projects across the U.S., including in Nevada.

Nevada Clean Energy Fund was established as what is known as a green bank [page 4]. Green banks are institutions that have been operating for over a decade in several other states to deploy billions of dollars into the clean energy economy by providing technical assistance and access to capital. Many of the first green banks in Connecticut, New York, and Michigan were initially launched about a decade ago to implement American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 dollars. So even though NCEF is a relatively new institution, we are working to bring proven and successful program models from other states. We also collaborate regularly with our green bank counterparts in other states.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$27 billion for green bank entities like the Nevada Clean Energy Fund [page 5]. The \$27 billion is part of what is called the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which is being administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as competitive grants. It is NCEF's priority to ensure that Nevada gets its fair share of these funds. With Nevada's fair share, we can do a lot [page 6]. We can launch a financing program to enable residents of single-family homes to invest in cleaner energy. We could launch a clean energy lending program for multifamily housing developers. We could launch programs to help schools, local businesses, nonprofits, and governments retrofit buildings

and transition to clean and lower-cost vehicle fleets. We can also launch programs to build community-scale solar and storage, particularly in rural areas where they can serve as a price hedge against dwindling hydroelectric resources in the West. There are other programs that we have not even thought about yet.

I want to talk more about the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [page 7, [Exhibit D](#)]. The \$27 billion is broken up into three buckets that are distinguished by who can apply and whether the funds must benefit or be accessible to low-income and disadvantaged communities. States, local governments, and tribes are eligible to apply for one of the buckets, the \$7 billion bucket, and NCEF is working closely with these other eligible recipients to prepare a competitive application. Only nonprofit entities like the Nevada Clean Energy Fund are eligible to apply for all three buckets. Specifically, the legislation defines the type of nonprofit organization that is eligible to apply for funds as one that is designed to provide capital and other forms of financial assistance, and to leverage private capital for the rapid deployment of low- and zero-emission technologies and projects. In addition, this institution must not take deposits. This effectively describes the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and that is because the legislative intent of the statute that created the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund was for these funds to be implemented by green banks.

The passage of S.B. 407 of the 79th Session and establishment of NCEF has really given Nevada an advantage with regard to these funds. These grants are still competitive, so we could get none of them if we are not prepared to submit a robust application, or we could get Nevada's fair share if we are. That is potentially hundreds of millions of dollars.

One way that NCEF has been working to increase Nevada's competitiveness is by building partnerships [page 8]. Over the past year, NCEF has been building partnerships with a variety of different stakeholders to not only increase our competitiveness for these funds, but also increase our capacity to effectively implement them. We have been building partnerships with state and local governments, schools, local and community lenders, also with the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank, and partnerships with the housing community.

We are a member of the Nevada Housing Coalition. We have been engaging with Nevada's housing developers and housing community, including developing educational programming for the 2022 Nevada Housing Conference. We are also engaging with utilities, including NV Energy and Nevada's rural electric utilities. We collaborated with Clark County's Clean Cities Initiative and NV Energy, City of Reno, and Boulder City to bring educational programming about clean vehicle fleets to local businesses and other fleet owners in Nevada. We are also engaging with green banks in other states. Finally, we are also working with Nevada GrantLab on our application for these federal funds. We see tremendous opportunity in bringing this ecosystem of diverse stakeholders in Nevada together to bring these federal funds into the state and advance Nevada's clean energy economy.

Our biggest challenge right now is funding for our organizational expenses [page 9]. Our federal subgrant from the Governor's Office of Energy has a deadline of June 30, 2023, and we do not expect funds to flow from the EPA until next year. We anticipate that the EPA

will also be considering our organizational capacity when determining how much funding to award to Nevada. We are requesting one-shot legislative funding for the biennium to support our organization and serve as a bridge to the federal funds. This funding would ultimately position us to potentially bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the state to support clean energy. We are requesting \$980,000 for two years to support very lean staffing operations and organizational expenses.

Taking a step back, I want to make a final point about the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the opportunity that is presented to Nevada right now [page 10, [Exhibit D](#)]. For every \$10 million of the federal grants that Nevada is able to capture, that could potentially lead to an additional \$50 million or more over the course of a decade for clean energy projects in this state. These funds can have a multiplier effect in two ways. The first is catalyzing other private capital into this space. The second is bringing even more competitive federal funding into the state. I will talk about each in turn. Regarding private leverage, the statute that created the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund requires that the funds be used for leveraging private sector capital. This is really what the Nevada Clean Energy Fund was developed and designed to do, and it is also what I have experience in. We are focused on originating and aggregating investments in partnership with other financial institutions and local lenders where NCEF's capital is the catalytic puzzle piece that can make a project happen.

On leveraging additional federal funds: two weeks ago, I believe, you heard presentations on some of the federal funds that are coming into Nevada from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as the Inflation Reduction Act [page 11]. Right now, NCEF is working on two grant applications for Infrastructure Investment in Jobs Act funds with our partners in Nevada, but I want to talk specifically about the Inflation Reduction Act. We are working on the competitive grant application for the \$27 billion, but that \$27 billion is only one part of a larger \$390 billion package for clean energy funding in the Inflation Reduction Act. To put that number in perspective, as you can see in the chart on this slide [slide 12], it is orders of magnitude greater than the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Seventy percent of that \$390 billion is in the form of tax credits; not grants, rebates, or formula-based grants; but tax credits whose amount is uncapped. The dollars that ultimately flow towards projects will be based purely on adoption rates. That means that if we want to bring in Nevada's fair share of this funding, we need to be able to build the projects that are eligible for those tax credits. We need to actually build the solar, the wind, the hydrogen, and the energy storage projects. We need to help Nevadans transition their vehicles to run on clean fuels. We need to enable residents and local businesses to reduce their energy costs, and we need to ensure that they have the access to capital and the trusted resources to do it.

This slide gives you a sense of what these tax credits mean for individuals and businesses [page 13]. They have the potential to both reduce the upfront cost of a measure, and more importantly, the ongoing energy bills of Nevadans. There are tax credits for weatherization, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and associated chargers, rooftop solar, and heating and

cooling equipment. One of the other interesting and important developments of the Inflation Reduction Act is it made many of these commercial tax credits accessible to nontaxable entities like governments and tax-exempt organizations like the Nevada Clean Energy Fund, which makes us an interesting tool as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that makes investments, and also to tribes and rural cooperatives. They can access these tax credits through cash reimbursement through the Internal Revenue Service. So, it is not just NCEF's priority to bring in Nevada's fair share of the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. It is also our priority to work with our ecosystem of partners to bring the state's fair share of the hundreds of billions of dollars in federal clean energy funding that is currently at stake. I am excited to work with you all to seize this opportunity. Thank you.

Chair Watts:

Members, do you have questions?

Assemblywoman Peters:

This is an exciting program. I worked with similar programs in California, where there is more money in general, so it is interesting to see the difference in how we are establishing these programs in Nevada. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds; can you clarify for me, because those are federal funds, if those can be used as match funds for some of the other federal grant programs that we have been talking about for the last two weeks? How will these funds be used to offset costs for projects?

Kirsten Stasio:

For traditional match funding on federal grants, these funds would not be able to be used as match funds because they are federal funds. However, if you are thinking about some of the rebate programs that are going to be implemented through the Governor's Office of Energy as well as these tax credits, then these funds can be used as bridge funding to enable folks to better access these funds. Oftentimes with rebates and particularly with tax credits, you need to make the investment in the measure before you are able to access the federal funds. So, one of the programs that we are looking at standing up would provide accessible capital to provide a bridge loan to enable folks to overcome that upfront capital barrier. But also, many of these rebates and tax credits do not cover the full cost of the measure, so we can also provide longer-term gap funding to do that.

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

Can you talk to us about the role of CDFI, or Community Development Financial Institutions? Can you explain to us what the role they play in this could be if we are able to make this work in our communities?

Kirsten Stasio:

Community Development Financial Institutions play a critical role in providing community lending capacity, and many of my counterparts in other states work very closely with their CDFIs. In Nevada, you all may be aware that we have very limited CDFI capacity and CDFI spending. But the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and I see this \$27 billion as an opportunity to develop the ecosystem of community lenders in the clean energy space. We

do not see ourselves as working in a vacuum, and I have been working closely with Access Community Capital—that is a relatively new CDFI. I think their CDFI status with the U.S. Department of Treasury is still pending, but we are excited to be working with them as a partner. They are active in the Las Vegas area.

Chair Watts:

Any additional questions from members? I have a couple of additional questions. I think you touched on this, but I want to make sure it is clear for all the members. You discussed there are federal programs and tax incentives that in some cases may be offered as direct pay. I know there has been some progress towards trying to get those on the front end instead of the back end in order to reduce that upfront financial barrier. I think there are some rebate programs that exist at many levels, some federally funded, some utility based, and some that may be stood up by state government. So, your vision is to figure out how to manage and combine those and then work with others in the financial sector to figure out what lending instruments are available that can help, and then figure out where your organization, particularly, can either partner or otherwise fill those gaps in order to increase access to these clean energy technologies. Your role is as a lender. Is that correct?

Kirsten Stasio:

Is your question whether or not our role is as a lender?

Chair Watts:

Yes, and I guess it is two questions. First of all, is that characterization of the whole financial ecosystem and your role in it accurate? Second, I am asking in general, are you making loans, making grants, are you moving funds out the door, or is it a revolving program?

Kirsten Stasio:

I think that was a good characterization of what we are trying to do in the ecosystem in which we are operating. In terms of whether or not we offer loans directly, there are going to be instances where we are providing credit enhancements in partnership with other lenders. It is a loan-type product, but it is not lending. With other local credit unions and CDFIs, to really catalyze their capital into this space, there will be other instances where it is clear that there is no player who is operating in that space. The provision of technical assistance and education by an entity like the Nevada Clean Energy Fund that has clean energy expertise is really critical to making projects happen. In those instances, we would be providing loans directly. I do not envision that we are going to be doing consumer lending, particularly in the early days, because of the regulations and internal capacity requirements. The vision and the strategy is to start with some kind of commercial scale and commercial lending.

Chair Watts:

Thank you. I appreciate that explanation. So, there is both a commercial lending component but then also helping provide some of that capital that allows some of the other financial

institutions to do things that they might not be able to do otherwise. That potentially can reach even broader. How have other green banks been capitalized in order to do the programs?

Kirsten Stasio:

Green banks, by and large, get a lot of their programmatic capital from legislative allocations or PUC [Public Utilities Commission] rate writers. I mentioned a lot of the early green banks were started around the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act days to help implement that funding. If you look at the Connecticut green bank, Washington, D.C. green bank, and the California green bank, you will see they get funding from public dollars.

Chair Watts:

Thank you very much. That is helpful, both from the perspective of the operating and also from the perspective that when this idea really started, there was a federal pot of funds that was able to help kick-start it. Here we are again with this opportunity on the horizon. Going back to staffing, I think you discussed how the investment in staffing and core infrastructure helps position us to pull down some of these competitive funds. What do you see as the timeline for developing and deploying some of the initial programs from the fund, if you are able to get some of this core support?

Kirsten Stasio:

Great question. My goal and my vision is to have projects ready to go to include in the EPA application because I think that is something they are going to be looking for. We want to be ready to start getting funds out the door, start building these projects, and for communities to see these benefits as soon as the money from the federal government hits.

Chair Watts:

Wonderful. Thank you so much. Sorry for all the questions, but I am interested in understanding this and making sure that everyone else is aware of this ecosystem. Many of us are deeply involved in the financial ecosystem, particularly when it comes to clean energy finance. Members, do we have any other questions? All right, seeing none, thank you again for the presentation. We look forward to a continued partnership with you. [Exhibit E was submitted but not discussed and is included as an exhibit for the hearing.] Members, that takes us to the last item on our agenda for the day, which is public comment. [There was none.]

All right, thank you, members. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. We are adjourned [at 2:58 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kathy Biagi
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Broadband Opportunity High Speed NV," presented by Brian Mitchell, Director, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit D](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Nevada Clean Energy Fund, Presentation for Assembly Committee on Growth and Infrastructure," dated February 21, 2023, presented by Kirsten Stasio, CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund.

[Exhibit E](#) is a document titled "Building Nevada's Competitiveness for the \$27B Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund," submitted by Kirsten Stasio, CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund.