Coalition for Public Access
P.O. Box 205
Smith, NV 89430

Email: cpa@cfpa-nv.org
Web: www.cfpa-nv.org

August 26, 2008

Senator John Ensign
119 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

The Coalition for Public Access (CPA) is an advocate for open access to public lands. Our membership has grown since February, 2008 to include residents in Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda, Douglas, Nye, Churchill, and Washoe counties, Carson City, and many areas of California. And we continue to grow as we reach out to citizens in Pershing, Eureka, Humboldt, and Storey counties.

We are particularly concerned with respect to the Omnibus Public Lands Bill (S 3213). This ill-advised legislation proposes to lump in excess of ninety bills into a single piece of legislation without in many instances the benefit of hearings or significant public input. Doubtless, there may be some good legislation in S 3213; however, one strongly suspects that there is a huge amount of bad legislation, as well.

We seriously doubt that you or your staff had the time to fully study the bill and assess its impact in each and every individual instance.

In view of this, we are asking you to vote against S 3213 and to support holding separate hearings on the many issues buried in the proposal. By doing so, we believe that those items worthy of enactment will become law, while those of dubious quality will be put aside.

CPA represents the views of many ranchers, farmers, the recreational public, miners, conservationists, and naturalists. We are committed to keeping our public lands open to all Americans.

Thank you, and please vote against S 3213

Sincerely,

Phillip Tucker
For the CPA Board of Directors: Larry Simmons, Sue Silver, Wade Harlan, Mike Rosachi, Don Smith, Lu Weaver, Emery Thran, and Phillip Tucker