



Coalition for Public Access

P.O. Box 315
Wellington, NV 89444

www.cfpa-nv.org

May 28, 2008

via Email

Honorable William C. Kirby, Chairman
Esmeralda County Commissioners
P.O. Box 517
Goldfield, NV 89013

Re: Proposed No Lands Bill Resolution – Commissioner’s Meeting of June 3, 2008

Dear Chairman Kirby and Commissioners Boland and Gillum:

The Coalition for Public Access (CPA) is a grass roots organization which grew from the recent proposed lands bill and wilderness proposals for Lyon, Mineral and Esmeralda counties. We are undergoing the transformation from that of a reactive group to a proactive coalition of Nevadans and others who believe that Nevada’s motto of “Always Open” shouldn’t just apply to the gaming industry. It must also apply to the use of our public lands.

As we have in the past, the membership of the CPA joins with you again in addressing the matter of a lands bill laden with Wilderness Area proposals amounting in the hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands. These public lands constitute much of what makes Nevada unique from other Western states. They are openly available for multiple uses such as backroad sightseeing, mining and mineral development and, potentially in the future, the development of alternative energy resources.

As you know, Lyon and Mineral counties have both rejected the proposed lands bills for their counties, adopting resolutions that cite the amount of wilderness areas proposed as the main point of objection. As the three main counties that were recently approached for a joint lands bill, Esmeralda joined Lyon and Mineral in adopting a resolution rejecting Wilderness Areas and we encourage your board to adopt the proposed resolution rejecting the lands bill.

With the coalition of our three rural Nevada counties that have stood together to bring the focus on these kinds and types of lands bills, we may well have set a precedent that will help assure other counties in the state will not have to battle for local control of such measures. As you may be aware, NACO has drafted a Resolution addressing the issue of County Approval of Public Lands Bills and will be discussing this resolution at its meeting on May 30th. This is clear evidence that our three counties have the interest and backing of other Nevada counties and commissioners.

We encourage you to adopt your proposed resolution on June 3rd so that you and the people of your county will retain local control in the creation of future lands bills that may offer you true opportunities that will benefit your communities.

Respectfully,

Coalition for Public Access

By Wade Harlan, Jim Kinninger, Mike Rosacchi, Sue Silver, Larry Simmons, Donald Smith, Emery Thran and Phil Tucker.