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State of Nevada Assembly

Seventy-Fourth Session

Dear Senator Harry Reid,

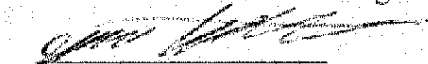
On the evening of March 5th we attended a meeting in Smith Valley, in relation to the proposed Lyon-Mineral Co. lands bill. We were impressed with the 450 plus citizens that showed up to voice their concerns with this issue. Your representative did a fine job representing your interest. We were informed that all sides of the subject were invited to participate. However, only those in opposition to the proposed area were in attendance. Either way a turnout of 450 plus constituents in a rural community, all united in their opposition, is something we wanted to make sure you were informed about.

The main focus of the discussion was that the expansion of the wilderness area in relation to that group's first request is almost twice the original size. When the issue was visited over two years ago with many of participants, and reviewed maps, they indicated that that amount was more area than they expected to receive. This dramatic increase in size would likely have many detrimental effects.


The hampering of fire fighting efforts, due to the lack of being able to utilize machinery. By the time a fire spread outside of the Wilderness area would make it dramatically harder to stop. This very situation presented itself in a fire Coleville California in 2002. Tragically, that fire cost Steve Wass, Craig Labare and Mike Davis their lives. Beyond the concern of human and residential safety, this could actually have a significant detrimental effect to areas wildlife species diversity, due to lack of predator control. Let alone the thought of locking away acreage that might be used for alternative energy.


Lastly the economy in the area is diverse. The agricultural community, due to changes in grazing practices, could cost many their livelihood. The recreation industry whether it be fishing, biking, or equestrian would be impacted. Aviation courses would be altered adding flight time and expense. Added to together these impacts will not only effect the economics of the rural communities but also consequently the state.

With this we urge you, our congressional representative, to either have the proposal scaled back to it's original scope or eliminated. Additionally, we encourage the Utah resolution which is attached for your convenience, be considered in relation to insuring that those that have more knowledge about the lands in question have a stronger voice.


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Assemblyman District #39


Tom Grady
Assemblyman District #38


Mike McGinness
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Assemblyman District #36