

SOUTHERN NEVADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT

MAJOR ENDORSEMENTS

*Introduced by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)
Representatives Dina Titus (D-Nev.-01), Mark Amodei (D-Nev.-02), Steven Horsford (D-Nev.-04), and Susie Lee (D-Nev.-03)*

GOVERNOR SISOLAK

“I applaud Senator Cortez Masto and Congresswoman Titus for their leadership in the introduction of the Clark County Public Lands bill, and I appreciate the Nevada delegation’s ongoing commitment to working together to advance our shared priorities -- creating jobs today and protecting our heritage for future generations,” **said Governor Steve Sisolak.**

CLARK COUNTY

“A tremendous amount of environmental research and consultation with various community partners and experts throughout the region went into the development of the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act bill language,” **said Clark County Commission Chairman Marilyn Kirkpatrick.** “I commend Sen. Cortez Masto for incorporating a balanced approach, allowing for the preservation of our critical natural resources as well as understanding the need for orderly growth.”

CITY OF HENDERSON

“...The Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act seeks to build on successful past efforts that have not only preserved open space but have also allowed for public lands to be sold in order to facilitate the dynamic growth that has taken place in the state’s most populous county,” **said Mayor of Henderson Debra March** in a statement. “The City of Henderson strongly supports this legislation which strikes the right balance between protecting public lands in Nevada and creating new economic development and housing opportunities on acreage that will be made available through this innovative bill that was written with broad community input...”

CONSERVATION LANDS FOUNDATION

“This legislation is a bold step towards achieving America’s goal to protect 30% of our land and water by 2030 and help mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises by protecting almost two million acres of public land, including expanded protections for Red Rock Canyon NCA and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. This legislation will also provide much needed economic diversification, affordable housing solutions, and a new source of funding for local development and implementation of Nevada’s sustainability and climate initiatives,” **said Jocelyn Torres, Senior Field Director, Conservation Lands Foundation.**

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

“We are deeply grateful to Senator Cortez Masto for listening to her constituents who cherish Clark County’s vast public lands and want them protected for generations to come,” **said Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness.** “This bill would be the single largest designation of Wilderness acres in the state’s history, ensuring continued public access and critical habitat and cultural resource protection on more than 1.6 million acres. After years of leading a collaborative effort to secure permanent protection of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from military expansions that would impact public access, Friends now looks forward to working with Senator Cortez Masto to get this bill passed and make that protection a reality.”

NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

“Last year, it was apparent how much Nevadan's value our public lands for our mental and physical health. Taking action to safeguard these landscapes for future generations and the wildlife that inhabits them is essential if we want to pass down our outdoor heritage,” **said Russell Kuhlman, Executive Director, Nevada Wildlife Federation.**

SAVE RED ROCK

“We are thrilled that this legislation includes a 50,000 acre expansion of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area,” **said Heather Fisher, President, Save Red Rock.** “Red Rock is southern Nevada’s crown jewel and this bill recognizes how important these public lands are to locals and visitors alike. We thank Senator Cortez Masto and Representative Titus for their leadership in protecting Red Rock.”

NEVADA CONSERVATION LEAGUE

“Clark County - and all of Nevada - must find bold, smart, and sustainable ways to tackle our climate crisis while balancing the future growth of our state and addressing our community's most pressing needs of affordable housing and new jobs,” **said Paul Selberg, Executive Director, Nevada Conservation League.** “As the largest conservation bill Nevada has ever seen, Senator Cortez Masto’s and Congresswoman Titus’ landmark legislation addresses the needs of our community while protecting nearly two million acres of public lands and waters, including Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.”

GET OUTDOORS NEVADA

“Get Outdoors Nevada is committed to preserving Nevada’s public lands and encouraging Nevadans and visitors from all backgrounds and ages to discover, experience and connect to our state’s natural wonders and vast, unique landscapes. This legislation addresses key community needs, while offering significant protection for many important natural spaces throughout southern Nevada, from the Desert National Wildlife Refuge to Red Rock Canyon. We are grateful to the sponsors of this legislation and to all those who have contributed to its development,” **Rachel Bergren, Executive Director, Get Outdoors Nevada.**

PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument was established in December of 2014 as the 405th unit of the National Park Service to protect the paleontological period from 200,000-300,000 years ago,” **said Jill DeStefano, Board President, Protectors of Tule Springs.** “The purpose is to “conserve, protect, interpret and enhance for the benefit of present and future generations the unique and nationally important paleontological, scientific, educational and recreational resources and values of the land.” This important legislation allows this scientific treasure trove to be eligible for SNPLMA funds so that NPS may enhance the visitor experience with the first infrastructure on the Monument. Protectors of Tule Springs support this important change to the original SNPLMA Bill.”

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

“The Pew Charitable Trusts supports the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act introduced by Sen. Cortez Masto and Rep. Dina Titus,” **said John Seebach, Project Director of Pew Charitable Trusts.** “This legislation will permanently protect the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, preserve land critical for endangered species, and make real investments in sustainable growth and climate change initiatives in Clark County. We are grateful to the sponsors of the legislation and to all of the stakeholders who have come together to craft this bill.”

BATTLE BORN PROGRESS

“We are thankful to both Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Congresswoman Dina Titus for their leadership and efforts on this bill. We have seen the Senator listen to people in our communities and made necessary changes from original drafts of the bill to move this legislation in an important direction based on feedback from the community. We have worked on the issues of public lands and protecting special places like Red Rock for many years and we are happy about several elements of this bill which offer additional protection for key areas around Southern Nevada. We also believe the move to be able to use SNPLMA money for Climate Change mitigation efforts is a critical piece of this legislation,” **said Annette Mangus, Executive Director, Battle Born Progress.**

MOAPA BAND OF PAITUES

“Today, Senator Cortez Masto and Representative Titus introduced the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act. Title I of the bill restores a fraction of our ancestral lands to our Reservation which were unjustly taken from us by Congress over a century ago. On behalf of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, I thank Senator Cortez Masto and Representative Titus for working with our Tribe and including Title I in the bill,” **said Laura Parry, Chairwoman of the Moapa Band of Paiutes.** “Restoring our ancestral lands to our local control provides an opportunity for the Tribe to restore its cultural practices, increase its self-sufficiency, protect its traditional lands, and responsibly add to Southern Nevada’s economic growth. The lands will help us address a housing shortage in our community. Solar projects may be built on these lands, which have proven to create many jobs for our local community

members and help address climate change challenges. Finally, we will preserve our cultural sites and natural environmental on these ancestral lands.”

NEVADA HOUSING COALITION

“We need more affordable housing in Nevada, and land is one of the major barriers to affordable housing production. The proposed regulatory improvements, specifically for affordable housing projects by the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act, would speed the land transfer process from years to months. This Act will both decrease costs and increase options for affordable housing – a critical component of Nevada’s future economic prosperity for all Nevadans,” **said Christine Hess, Executive Director, Nevada Housing Coalition.**

NEVADA HAND, INC

“As the state’s largest affordable housing developer, Nevada HAND is appreciative of the work that U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto has done regarding the Clark County lands bill, and supportive of the Senator’s draft legislation. Senator Cortez Masto’s draft legislation reflects extensive efforts to bring together Southern Nevada stakeholders to develop a proposal that not only prioritizes Clark County’s long-term conservation and economic development efforts, but also spurs affordable housing development,” **said Audra Hamernik, Nevada HAND President & CEO.**

NAIOP, THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

“NAIOP Southern Nevada supports the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act. In the absence of this vital legislation, Southern Nevada will soon face a land shortage stunting economic development and diversification efforts. Expansion of the disposal boundary, coupled with a regional plan that allows for efficient, sustainable development, keeps Southern Nevada competitive and able to attract new business, improving the quality of lives of residents in Southern Nevada through increased employment opportunities, economic diversification and higher wages and incomes”

SOUTHERN NEVADA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

“The SNEDCA is the first major overhaul of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act in Southern Nevada since 1998. This is a balanced proposal and ensures access to both the dream of home ownership and recreational activities are attainable for as many Nevadans as possible. We must come together as a community to support commonsense solutions like SNEDCA that protect sensitive lands and species, make land available for clean energy development, fund our schools and open new opportunities for Nevadans to work in high-paying jobs and grow their families in homes they own,” **said Nat Hodgson, CEO of Southern Nevada Home Builders Association.** “Through land sales in the Las Vegas Valley, requested by local governments and conducted by the federal government, developers have contributed over \$4.1 billion for schools and conservation under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

This bill will ensure that all Nevadans will continue to benefit from balanced and innovative use of our public lands for the next generation,” Hodgson concluded.

NEVADA GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“A critical solution to Southern Nevada’s economic recovery effort will be the passage of the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act,” **said Michael Brown, Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development.** “Championed by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Representative Dina Titus, this legislation strikes a creative balance between conservation and badly needed diversification of our economy.”

LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“The Vegas Chamber applauds Senator Cortez Masto for her commitment to the Las Vegas economy by introducing her Clark County lands proposal,” **said Mary Beth Sewald, President and CEO of the Vegas Chamber.** “The bill comes from robust community collaboration across local governments, businesses, and non-profits and recognizes environmental sustainability as well as growth to the economic viability of our region. We look forward to working with the Senator to ensure swift passage of this important legislation.”

HENDERSON CHAMER OF COMMERCE

“This legislation is a win for Southern Nevada as it will enable local governments to provide direction as to how lands are used for smart development to diversify our economy. This diversification will lead to a more vibrant economic environment and drive enrollment towards our colleges and career training programs for students who are looking for new career opportunities. The bill also allows our community to address housing needs as lands are currently limited. In sum, the legislation increases our regional competitiveness, which attracts other industries to the area. We are grateful to Senator Cortez Masto for working with our organization on this long-term discussion and for bringing this bill forward,” **said Scott Muelrath, President and CEO, Henderson Chamber of Commerce and Henderson Development Association.**

URBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“Urban Chamber members are important players in our regional economy and are always ready to develop, expand, and fuel economic growth,” **said Ken Evans, President of the Urban Chamber of Commerce.** “This legislation is an important investment in our economy, addresses our need for affordable housing, and preserves our quality of life in the region by protecting nearly 2 million acres of public lands. We are supportive of this effort and appreciate the leadership of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Representative Dina Titus on these critical issues.”

LATIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – LAS VEGAS

"The Latin Chamber of Commerce appreciates the amount of work and planning that went into this critically important bill for the future of Southern Nevada. We are proud to announce that we support this bill," **said Peter Guzman, President, Latin Chamber of Commerce.**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

"The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department would like to express its support of the Clark County Lands Bill being introduced by Senator Cortez Masto," **said Sheriff Joe Lombardo.** "A portion of the land designated within the bill will be used by our agency and our community partners for the continuation of the Joint Emergency Training Institute (JETI) which is in its first of three stages of construction. JETI will be a state of the art joint training facility where state, local and federal emergency response agencies will come to train in both simulated and realistic environments. The JETI training facility will be the first of its kind in the nation and one that will be able to adapt quickly to the ever-changing world that our first responders must operate in."

CLARK COUNTY REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

"This legislation will allow local governments and regional agencies to better plan and utilize flood control infrastructure, schools, parks and other facilities currently built on federal lands," **said Steven Parrish, General Manager, Clark County Regional Flood Control District.**

"We strongly support its passage. It will enhance every local agency's ability to provide public services to Clark County residents."

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

"The Southern Nevada Water Authority strongly endorses this important bill because it helps secure the water resources and facilities that SNWA needs to provide reliable and safe water to our customers for decades to come."

In addition the list above, the below stakeholders have specifically endorsed the conservation provisions included in the *Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act.*

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

In a [letter](#), The Wilderness Society stated, "The Wilderness Society supports the significant conservation measures included in this bill, including the proposed wilderness designations and expansion of the Red Rock National Conservation Area. In particular, we strongly support wilderness designation within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. This stunning natural landscape supports world-class habitat and outstanding cultural values, and wilderness designation would help preserve these and other resources in perpetuity."

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

“The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest intact habitat for Desert bighorn sheep in the Lower 48 states and home to the threatened Desert tortoise,” **said Geoffrey L. Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.** “The Desert NWR, at 1.6 million acres, provides pristine wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and includes cultural and ecologically sacred tribal lands. Given the Nevada Test and Training Range expansion into the refuge, we believe it is critically important to protect this habitat. This is our opportunity to protect these lands in perpetuity as wilderness, and we appreciate Senator Cortez Masto’s efforts to ensure these lands remain undisturbed. We fully support the designation of 1.3 million acres of wilderness on the Desert NWR, and will work to ensure it becomes law.”