



TO: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining
FROM: Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, Anne Macquarie
RE: AJR8 -- Support
DATE: April 7, 2019

It is a pleasure to speak in favor of AJR8. Since the Toiyabe Chapter was founded in 1957 with a focus on public land management, we have met with a parade of staff from the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the US F&WS. The staff provided us with the best information they had and we talked to them about our concerns. No sooner were we comfortable working with them, when they were transferred to another state or station. But they took with them their experience of the land and its people. And when they returned as many do sometimes years after their sojourn in Nevada, to another office and another position, we reconnected and appreciated that they already had a background in Nevada, its land.

We appreciate that both BLM and Forest Service maintain offices in rural communities close to the land they are charged to manage. I suspect that many of our newer Nevada residents have yet to visit these rural communities and know less about these rural economies, the landscapes and their uses.

The documents these agencies prepare for Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Analyses, or virtually any proposed action may frustrate us with the time required to prepare them or to review them, but they provide information which frankly, the state of Nevada and its communities are often reluctant to collect themselves. They have provided hearing processes, work groups, scientific and mapping contributions, which probably has saved Nevada millions of dollars. In fact we often rely on these federal agencies for information they assemble.

And although many stakeholders will agree with our frustration at the BLM's bureaucracy and occasional lack of response to local concerns, Nevada's lands and communities are far better served by the current local office structure, and the BLM's decision reflect far more local expertise, than we would experience with the federal government's proposed restructuring.

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 30,000 members and supporters in Nevada, I urge you to pass AJR8, and I thank you for attending to this important issue.

Anne Macquarie
Executive Committee Chair, Toiyabe Chapter