

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

We write to respectfully request your assistance in securing a legislative hearing for the *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act* (S.3593). This proposal reflects years of collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to allow for responsible growth in Washoe County, Nevada, protect public lands and outdoor recreation, and support Tribal communities. Our bill will also expand economic development and affordable housing opportunities while increasing conservation across the region.

The *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act* conveys over 3,400 acres of lands for recreation and public purposes to local government entities for the construction of schools, parks, water treatment facilities and other uses for the public good. It also directs over 15,800 acres of land to be made eligible for sale. These are parcels that have been identified for economic development by our constituents and are needed to support the growth happening in Washoe County. Between 2010 and 2022, the population of Washoe County grew by almost 18 percent, whereas the US population only grew 7.7 percent in that same time frame. This bill will help our communities expand to meet the needs of their increasing populations. In addition to development, the bill resolves 10 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and establishes over 550,000 acres of National Conservation Areas (NCAs) to allow for the more specific management our public lands need based on their current characteristics. The legislation also transfers land into trust for three Tribes in Washoe County.


In September 2023, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution (Resolution 23-138) in support of efforts by the Nevada congressional delegation to advance federal legislation to address substantial growth in the area and bolster “vital economic development” by making land available for sale “to address development demands and housing affordability.” They also supported the bill taking steps to expand recreational activities like hiking and hunting and, resolve WSAs to ensure the appropriate designations are in place to “protect wildlife habitats, cultural resources, and recreational access, while ensuring continued multiple use.” Washoe County’s resolution notes that Nevada’s public lands “provide numerous jobs and important economic contributions to communities” and support economic growth opportunities through grazing, tourism, and mining.

Additionally, the City of Sparks passed a resolution in support of legislation, echoing a similar sentiment and emphasizing the need for a county lands bill to “foster a growing community” and “preserve the quality of life” for the region. *The Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act* is designed to make targeted and meaningful improvements on these issues, which is why it is supported by not only the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Sparks, but also by the Chairman of the Reno-

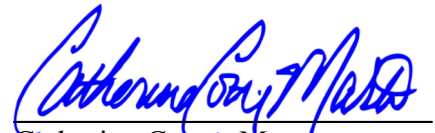
Sparks Indian Colony, the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Nevada Wildlife Federation, and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please reach out to McKenna LeVitt (mckenna_levitt@rosen.senate.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator