



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

**Testimony of Shaaron Netherton
Executive Director
Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

**Hearing on HR 6209 “Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act”
November 2, 2023**

**For the record of the legislative hearing held on March 20, 2024
In the House Committee on Natural Resources
Federal Lands Subcommittee**

Dear Chairman Tiffany, Ranking Member Neguse, and Members of the Federal Lands Subcommittee:

On behalf of Friends of Nevada Wilderness and our 16,000 supporters, please accept these comments in support of HR 6209, the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as wilderness, protecting all present and potential wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of and need for wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wild lands. Friends of Nevada Wilderness is celebrating our 40th anniversary this year.

I would like to express appreciation for the Nevada delegation’s continued support for local efforts to resolve issues on public lands. Nevadans know how to come to the table in good faith and work together to develop bills that enhance economic development, conserve public lands and improve recreation opportunities.

The Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act would expand the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by adding contiguous federal lands and provide for a right-of-way under the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and other public lands for the purpose securing water resources for Las Vegas Valley residents. Friends of Nevada Wilderness supports the 9,290-acre expansion of the national conservation area. This will help protect habitat corridors for bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

We understand that putting the pipeline under the national conservation area is much less expensive than the alternative through Henderson. There will however, be impacts to public lands surrounds the national conservation area from waste rock storage, etc. We recommend that a mitigation and/or restoration fund be created with the cost savings of this alternative to be used to ensure all temporary impacts to the national conservation area and other public lands are restored and provide funding to manage the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area for its intended purposes of protecting natural and cultural resources.

Contact

Friends of Nevada Wilderness appreciates the opportunity to again provide testimony in support of portions of the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act.

Please contact Shaaron Netherton at 775 324-7667 or shaaron@nevadawilderness.org if you have any questions regarding our views on HR 6209.