



togetherforbetter

Office of the County Manager

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March 18, 2024

The Honorable Congressman Tom Tiffany
Chair, U.S. House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Congressman Joe Neguse
Ranking Member, U.S. House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act (H.R. 6209/S. 2042)

Dear Chair Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse,

On behalf of the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, I express support for the Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act (H.R. 6209/S. 2042). The legislation expands the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (SCNCA) by 9,290 acres. This expansion will elevate the conservation, wildlife and outdoor recreation values the SCNCA brings to our community. In addition, this legislation would enhance the redundancy of southern Nevada's water system by granting important rights-of-way to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) for the Horizon Lateral water infrastructure project.

This timely passage of this bill is important. Clark County is home to over 2 million people hosting millions of visitors each year. In southern Nevada, part of our region relies upon a single water transmission line known as the South Valley Lateral (SVL). The SVL delivers 40 percent of our region's drinking water, but it lacks redundancy to provide continual water service in case there are system emergencies or outages. After years of studies, discussion, and engagement with SNWA, the community and its leaders have expressed strong support for the South Alignment of the Horizon Lateral project.

The South Alignment of the Horizon Lateral project avoids urban areas by tunneling under the SCNCA, reducing major public impacts. Alternatively, the Northern Alignment would cause significant disruptions to due to the density of existing development, including businesses, apartments, homes, medical facilities, childcare and educational facilities, roads, utilities—all at great cost of \$200 million. We have seen SNWA produce successful outcomes with tunneling under federal land during development of the Third Intake for Lake Mead and Low Lake Levels Pumping Station. We know the same care would be taken underneath the SCNCA to ensure there were no discernable surface disturbances during the development of the Horizon Lateral Project.



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H.R. 6209 will augment the conservation efforts of our community and facilitate important infrastructure needs that will enhance water system redundancy, reliability and improve public safety. We appreciate Congresswoman Dina Titus for her leadership on this bill and the Nevada congressional delegation for their support. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN SCHILLER
COUNTY MANAGER