



October 14, 2017

Susan Joseph-Taylor

Office of state Water Engineer

901 South Stewart Suite 2002

Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Sirs:

As a business owner in Snake Valley, I am writing to protest any water transfer from Snake and Spring Valleys. All the economic reasons that were listed in prior hearings and testimony are still valid. Our business, The Border Inn, has increased significantly since the "Great Recession". Our customer base which relies heavily on tourism has grown and is a different demographic than in earlier years. Great Basin National Park and White Pine County have marketed our incredible night skies at the Park. In 2016, Great Basin National Park had a 25% increase in visitation. These visitors spent \$6.5 million in communities near the park which supported 94 jobs in the local area.

Also, there are more hunters than ever. Both Utah and Nevada's Departments of Wildlife have opened more hunts for antelope, deer and elk. There has been a big increase in the number of residents from Clark County who come here to hunt and then return with their families to experience the Park and other attractions in the area.

There are now seven B & B's in Snake Valley. There is a new business at Gandy Warm Springs that has rustic cabins and gives tours daily of Crystal Ball Cave. Existing businesses report a great summer. Our most pressing problems are the limited work force from which to draw and the lack of housing for permanent and seasonal employees. The Border Inn is currently housing six employees which decreases revenue from the motel and RV park. In the forty years I have lived here this is the first time I am optimistic that as people discover us they will visit more and the local population will grow to accommodate business needs.

To summarize the impacts on our economy, the night skies will not benefit from a dustier environment if we lose water. The cave formations at Lehman and Crystal Ball Caves need water to continue growing. Animal habitat will be affected decreasing all wildlife. All of which will impact our livelihood.

I urge you to consider the economic impacts of the groundwater development project to the local economy and to Las Vegas who desire a place to recreate and find some peace from the pressure of urban life.

Thank you.

Denys M Koyle

