



Nevada  
Conservation  
League Education Fund

September 5, 2007

Mr. John Walker  
Executive Secretary  
Nevada State Environmental Commission  
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Walker,

Please find attached the written comments of the Nevada Conservation League Education Fund regarding Petition P2007-03. Our organization would also appreciate the ability to provide commentary at the hearing on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Sincerely,



Kyle Davis  
Policy Director

**COMMENTS OF THE NEVADA CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**EDUCATION FUND ON PETITION P2007-03**

The Nevada Conservation League Education Fund is a Nevada 501 C3 charitable organization. Our organization's mission is to provide the citizens of Nevada and our state and local government with important information about conservation and the protection of our state's unique environment for Nevadans and for future generations. As a signatory to the petition being considered today, we want to express our full support for the provisions of the petition, and would ask that the Commission rule favorably on these issues.

Global warming is one of the most important issues facing the State of Nevada. As set forth in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, scientists are in near universal agreement that our planet is warming and that this warming is caused by human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The consequences of doing nothing about this problem are significant, and we are already seeing some of the impacts here in our state. Most of the scientific models predict that even if we can keep our greenhouse gas emissions at current levels, our state faces the strong likelihood of increased drought and wildfires. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, this will be most pronounced in a decrease of water throughout the Great Basin as well as decreased stream flows on most Nevada rivers, including the Colorado River, which provides over 90% of the water for the Las Vegas Valley. A shorter winter, characterized by more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, will lead to drier conditions earlier in our forests and a lengthening fire season.

Keep in mind; these are the likely impacts if we curb our emissions today. If we increase our emissions, as the construction of coal plants would do, the consequences would be much worse.

Nevadans are already seeing the impacts right now. We have experienced a very warm summer in both Northern and Southern Nevada, and last year, both of our major cities were among the top cities in increase in summer temperature lows. Our fire season has been long and intense, with the Angora and Hawken fires threatening our neighborhoods and cities.

The time for action is now. We cannot continue to hide behind excuses and obfuscations of the facts. Global warming is a real problem; the scientific community is united on this. The impacts of global warming are likely to hit Nevada harder than many other states. All this petition is asking for is a standard for global warming pollution. Our state is taking the time right now to study the issue of climate change, through the Nevada Climate Change Advisory Committee, our participation in the Climate Registry and our observations of the Western Climate Initiative. It does not make sense to allow for the increase in Nevada's global warming pollution at the same time that we are studying how to decrease that pollution. We would encourage the Commission to act within their authority and regulate global warming pollution to protect the quality of life of Nevada's citizens.