CONGRESSWOMAN
SUSIE LEE
SERVING NEVADA'S 3RD DISTRICT

Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act

Introduced by Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV) and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Why do we need this bill?

Southern Nevada's Clark County totals more than 5 million acres — with nearly 90 percent of that land administered by the U.S. government.

This makes Clark County unique, in that our urban core is encircled by land under federal control that can make it much more challenging than in other places to successfully coordinate sustainable growth and development; regional conservation efforts to keep our celebrated public lands, such as at Red Rock Canyon and Avi Kwa Ame, in public hands; and local planning to promote and achieve economic diversification.

With Southern Nevada expected to welcome another 820,000 residents by 2060, this legislation — crafted over many years with extensive input from state and local government officials, Tribal leaders, the business community, and outdoor advocates — will enable and encourage Clark County to responsibly pursue new development across the next half-century while forever safeguarding millions of acres of land for conservation and recreation.

What would this bill do?

- ***Grow Clark County's economy.***
  - The bill allows Clark County to develop up to 25,000 acres over the next 50 years, using the process established by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) — ensuring that the proceeds from land sales in Nevada stay in Nevada.
- ***Protect our iconic public lands — and our water supply.***
  - The bill sets aside upwards of 2 million acres of federally owned land for outdoor recreation, wildlife conservation, and cultural and landscape preservation, including:
    - A 56,000-acre expansion of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area;
    - Four off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation areas totaling 117,607 acres; and
    - Nearly 325,000 additional acres of wilderness in Clark County, with more than a third of this acreage located within the new Avi Kwa Ame National Monument.
  - It also bolsters ongoing efforts to strengthen the Las Vegas Wash, a natural drought mitigation tool and the primary drainage channel for the Las Vegas Valley watershed, which carries around 200 million gallons of water to Lake Mead daily.
- ***Support affordable housing development.***
  - The bill facilitates the development of more affordable housing, making it easier for our local governments to reserve federal land, build more housing supply, and work together with affordable housing developers.
- ***Advance Tribal self-governance and economic opportunities***.
  - The bill fosters greater Tribal self-governance and provides for traditional and cultural uses of regional Tribal land through the inclusion of 45,146 acres held in trust for the Moapa Band of Paiutes and 3,156 acres for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe.

For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact Mark Coombs in Congresswoman Susie Lee's office at mark.coombs@mail.house.gov.