



May 17, 2021

Dallas Harris  
Chair, Senate Growth and Infrastructure  
401 S. Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701

Chris Brooks  
Vice Chair, Senate Growth and Infrastructure  
401 S. Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701

**RE: Support of RTO provisions in SB 448**

Dear Chair Harris, Vice Chair Brooks, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the above listed organizations representing business and environmental conservation interests, we are pleased to support SB 448. In particular, we support the Regional Transmission Organization provisions, which would put the state on a path to participate in a competitive regional wholesale energy market. Modernizing Nevada's energy system through strengthened interstate cooperation will benefit ratepayers with lower costs and increased reliability, while maximizing the performance of the electric grid system-wide, allowing for higher levels of renewable energy integration to cost-effectively meet state decarbonization goals, and stimulating the economy.

Because of its geography and abundant natural resources, Nevada will be central to any regional wholesale energy market construct. Taking a proactive planning approach will allow Nevada to play a leading role in the design of the market that offers the most benefits to the state's economy and economic recovery. It will also mark the state as a prime opportunity for private advanced energy investment. Upgrading and strategically expanding electric transmission infrastructure will support the interconnections needed for Nevada's full participation in a regional wholesale electricity market. This means getting more Nevadans back to work in good construction and maintenance jobs. That transmission will also stimulate additional economic development by incentivizing new renewable energy and storage projects across the state. Moreover, embracing an expanded regional market will entice more interest from Fortune 500 corporations seeking to meet aggressive sustainability targets through improved access to competitively priced clean energy.

If designed right, an RTO structure combined with modernized transmission planning can also offer greater resilience in the face of future risks and threats to grid stability. By broadening the pool of energy resources available to provide power during times of critical need and coordinating regional energy needs in advance of extreme weather events, this structure is also better equipped to deliver flexible, reliable power to where it is needed most from places in the region that have excess clean energy to spare. It also offers a prudent approach to cost-effectively manage the growing uptake of variable renewable energy coming online to keep pace with state energy commitments. In addition to ensuring reliability, integrating and balancing Nevada's diverse resources through a more efficient, transparent system will maintain the overall affordability of an increasingly decarbonized grid.

Without establishing a clear market signal reinforced by legislative and regulatory direction, Nevada risks losing out on private advanced energy investment, increasing costs for utility customers, and lagging on its decarbonization goals. A regional grid, supported by an optimized transmission system, is critical to securing Nevada's modern, efficient, and affordable energy future. For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of SB 448. Thank you for your consideration.