

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2804**  
November 26, 2019

Kemba K. Anderson  
Branch Chief of Fluid Minerals  
Bureau of Land Management  
Nevada State Office  
1340 Financial Boulevard  
Reno, Nevada 89502

Dear Ms. Anderson,

As the Representative of Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which makes up 52,000 square miles of the State and as a Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I am writing to express deep concerns regarding the Bureau of Land Management's upcoming oil and gas lease sale on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Many Nevadans have voiced their opposition – including Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Governor Steve Sisolak, City of Henderson, Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, the City of Mesquite, Virgin Valley Water District, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and many others.

In Nevada, water is gold; it drives every aspect of economic life and viability. I strongly oppose any action that jeopardizes precious water sources. The proposed oil and gas lease sale contains parcels that are located above the region's water system's aquifer supply (Hydrographic Basin 222), the sole drinking water source for the City of Mesquite and other neighboring communities.

I am also worried that extraction efforts can lead to accidents, which have the potential to negatively impact the water supply for thousands of Nevadans. Further, parcels around Meadow Valley Wash, the Mormon Mountains Wilderness, Clover Mountains Wilderness, the Tule Desert and the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area are in water basins that drain into Southern Nevada and ultimately culminate in Lake Mead, a major water supply in the region.

In addition to the potential contamination of potable water supplies, this effort negatively impacts Nevada's indigenous and tribal communities' lands. Further, there are potential negative consequences for wildlife, unique plants and vegetation, and outdoor recreation, a mainstay of Nevada's local economies. Some of these areas include public lands near Great Basin National Park, the Ruby Lake Wildlife Refuge and the Ruby Mountains.

I request that the BLM give serious weight to the communities who have voiced their concerns and are directly impacted when considering the current and future oil and gas lease sales in Nevada. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt request.

Sincerely,



Steven Horsford  
4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Nevada