



State of Nevada

Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

State Environmental Commission

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### Agenda Item 3: Summary of Petition to Limit Fossil Fuel Carbon Dioxide Emissions, Submitted by Kids vs Global Warming

#### Public Petition \* Action Item

**Petition to Limit Fossil Fuel Carbon Dioxide Emissions:** As allowed under NAC 445B.886, this “public petition” submitted by “Kids vs Global Warming” calls for a regulation to limit fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions along with an emissions reduction strategy that would achieve atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide no greater than 350 parts per billion (ppb) by the year 2100.

Support for the petition is based on the following points: that science unequivocally shows that anthropogenic climate change is occurring and is threatening the stability of the global climate; that climate change is already occurring in the state of Nevada and is projected to significantly impact Nevada in the future; and that the public trust doctrine demands that the state of Nevada act to preserve the atmosphere and provide a livable future for present and future generations.

Among other requirements, the proposed regulation calls for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels within Nevada’s borders. Such emissions would peak in 2012 and then starting in 2013 would be reduced by at least 6 percent per year. The proposed regulation would further require the State Environmental Commission (SEC) to adopt a greenhouse gas reduction plan to achieve the above referenced CO<sub>2</sub> limits. Statewide annual progress reports on greenhouse gas emissions would then be published annually and would include an accounting and inventory for each and every source of all greenhouse gas emissions within the state.

While the petitioner reports the economic effect of the regulation on Nevada business “cannot easily be calculated,” the petitioner notes that promulgation of such a regulation would prevent economic harm to many sectors of the Nevada economy (i.e., including ranchers, farmers, and the tourism industry) by preventing catastrophic damage to Nevada’s natural environment.

Likewise the petitioner notes that the estimated economic effect on the public cannot easily be calculated, yet the regulation would help secure Nevada’s water resources and preserve livelihoods that depend on the health of Nevada’s natural environment. Regarding cost to enforce the regulation, once again the petitioner states it could not be easily calculated “because the regulation provides the Commission with discretion as to how it will choose to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

In compliance with NAC 445B.886 and SEC form 1, the petitioner states that the proposed regulation does not overlap other regulation concerning carbon dioxide emissions, however the petitioner notes the proposed regulation would be more stringent than any federal regulations, since no federal regulations currently restrict carbon dioxide emissions. Finally, the petitioner notes that the proposed regulation would not establish a new fee or increase existing fees.