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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Governmental Affairs. 3-31-03

Good day. My name is John Howe, and my family and I built our home at 11510 Osage Road in Silver Knolls 27 years ago. We have been active in the affairs of our rural community for all of this period.

Silver Knolls has flourished as a Washoe County community, peopled by families who have chosen the area for its open spaces, and the opportunity to build on large lots. All the lots are at least one acre and a fraction, and many are parcels of 5, 10, twenty acres and more. Silver Knolls is entirely residential, except for a church and the volunteer fire station. The lands bounding our community are vacant, owned by the Federal Bureau of Land Management, or by developers who intend to develop the land with high density housing that is incompatible with our community. Families have chosen it for the opportunity to own horses, dogs, sheep and other domestic animals.

I support AB 379 as a badly needed correction to the NRS. I have attended many meetings dealing with the update of the Regional Plan, and have seen the three Washoe County members of several commissions out-voted 6 to 3, as the Cities of Reno and Sparks vote together to deny nearly all of the county's proposals.

I urge you to support AB 379. Thank you.