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Assembly Committee on Government Affairs
Public Comment re: AB427
April 1, 2003

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Barbara Slade, and I am the president of the Carson Valley Trails Association. Our Assn. is a non-profit organization that was formed a little more than 7 yrs. ago because we began to see rangeland being sold and subdivided for residential use which in turn blocked public access to public lands. Our group works with USFS, BLM and Douglas County to promote the planning, construction, use and maintenance of trails and trailheads in and around the Carson Valley. We are the group responsible for the purchase of, with the American Land Conservancy, the Faye-Luther trailhead in Douglas County, which is the only existing trailhead in the Carson Range.

We are not in support of "takings" or "condemning" land for accesses, trails and trailheads but Bill 427 discourages developers, who are blocking people from getting to public land, from negotiating with governmental entities to help with providing a trail network that is a significant benefit to the community. As community growth occurs, and public lands are blocked by development it is even more important to be able to negotiate. It should never be about the interest of one group, but what is best for all citizens in the community.

When a developer comes forward to get approval of his planned development it is a one time opportunity to provide a public good in return for concessions the developer requests from the County.

Someone needs to be creative and find language that will provide for a trail system, get access to public lands and not be a "takings". People need trails and have the right to be in public lands. No one person, no one development should block public access to public land.

I strongly urge you to deny Assembly Bill 427.

Thank You

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ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
DATE: 4/1/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT c
SUBMITTED BY: Barbara Slade