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**Assembly Committee on Government Affairs  
Public Comment on AB 427 – April 1, 2003**

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

I am Jim Slade from Gardnerville, and I am here today to testify against AB 427. This bill would have the effect of making public access to public lands much more difficult. It favors a special interest group, namely developers, to the detriment of the general public. It is not by chance that this bill appears before you two days before the Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan goes before the Douglas County Commissioners. It is an over-reaction to that Trails Plan.

When developers seek to sub-divide land adjacent to public lands (USFS or BLM), they come to the county seeking concessions and approval. This is the one opportunity the county (and hence the public) has to gain public access to public lands. This bill would deny the county and the public that one opportunity.

Trails are a sign of community health. A trail easement is a reasonable contribution to the public good, when a developer is asking for concessions from the county.

Other master plans in Nevada undoubtedly have similar statements, but here is what the Douglas County Master Plan (10.100) states:

“Douglas County should facilitate legal public access to public lands. As community growth occurs on private lands adjacent to public land, right-of-ways should be provided through the proposed development to assure regional access to public lands.

Goal 10.23: Douglas County will ensure development and maintenance of multi-purpose (hiking, equestrian, bikeway and off-road bicycle) trail systems throughout Douglas County. This system should provide connection and access to public lands (BLM and National Forest)”... etc.

This bill would seek to thwart this and other similar goals. It would be the detriment of the citizens of Nevada. I urge you not to support this bill. Thank you.

*E1 of 2*

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
DATE: 4-1-03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT E  
SUBMITTED BY: Jim Slade

April 18, 1996

- 10.22.03.5 Identify potential load restrictions
  - 10.22.3.5.a Identify pavement condition
  - 10.22.3.5.b Identify structure limitations
- 10.22.03.6 If issues 3.3 thru 3.4 are adequately addressed, sign the "Truck Route" to guide commercial vehicles around the restricted area.

**TRAIL SYSTEM**

Douglas County should facilitate legal public access to public lands. As community growth occurs on private lands adjacent to public lands, right-of-ways should be provided through the proposed development to assure regional access to public lands.

**Goal 10.23:** Douglas County will ensure development and maintenance of multi-purpose (hiking, equestrian, bikeway, and off-road bicycle) trail systems throughout Douglas County. This system should provide connection and access to public lands (BLM and National Forest), recreation facilities, facilities of local and regional interest, and public facilities.

**Objective 10.23.01:** Prepare a comprehensive trails plan and map for Douglas County.

**Implementation Strategies**

- 10.23.01.1 Douglas County, in cooperation with the community and Federal and State agencies, shall develop a County-wide Trail Plan and Map within one year of adoption of the Master Plan and on a priority basis shall develop a trailhead access plan to Federal lands.
  - 10.23.01.1.a The plan shall include provisions for equestrian, hiking, bicycle, and mountain bike users.
  - 10.23.01.1.b The plan shall evaluate and address trail systems adjacent to river and other water corridors.
  - 10.23.01.1.c On an interim basis, the County will evaluate individual public and private projects relative to access to public lands to ensure that the overall objective is met.