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Assembly Bill No. 372

Before the Committee on Natural Resources, Mining and Agriculture

Testimony of Russ Fields, President,

Nevada Mining Association

April 7, 2003

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. I am Russ Fields, President of the Nevada Mining Association. While AB 372 does not directly impact the majority of members of the Mining Association, we do believe the fundamental goal of the bill, to create a permitting program for wildlife issues associated with renewable energy, is a worthy one.

Why would an industry be interested in promoting a regulatory or permitting system for its projects? The answer is to provide for a level playing field for all participants, for certainty in terms of planning and budgeting and to demonstrate to potential financiers limits on surprises.

The mining industry found itself in a situation in the late 80's and early 90's where we indeed needed a rational permitting system to ensure wildlife was protected around our mining and processing operations. At that time, the

Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and its commission, the mining industry and the public were able to develop a permitting system that has worked well now for well over a decade. While it is never easy to hammer these things out, AB 372 can be viewed as establishing a framework for permitting that can be helpful to Nevada's renewable energy industry.

Thank you.