

Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness

Senate of the Associated Students 89th Session

Agenda for Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 at 2:00pm

Location: Center for Student Engagement, President's Conference Room

Zoom Meeting: Email Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER*

Call Meeting to Order must be listed by Secretaries.

2. ROLL CALL*

Roll Call must be listed by Secretaries.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to be approved at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Legislation

The Committee will consider a subject that the members may work on together.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Liaison Position Updates

The Committee will update members and the public of their liaison information.

7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS

a. Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Guillen

b. Director of Campus Wellness, Jiego Lim



Posted online at www.nevadaasun.com

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

8. PUBLIC COMMENT*

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9. ADJOURNMENT

10. NOTES.

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

89th Session

2021-2022

**S. R. 89 –
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
TO PROTECT THACKER PASS**

IN THE SENATE OF ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

16 August, 2021

Submitted by Senator Sarah Wise

A resolution in support to protect Thacker Pass

Whereas, the Lithium mine company named “Lithium America’s” is moving forward with final construction plans of a Lithium Mine in rural Nevada.

Whereas, “Lithium Americas” who possess an partnership with “Lithium Nevada Corp.” wish to use an open pit area project for the lithium mine.

1 <https://www.protectthackerpass.org/fact-sheet-about-proposed-thacker-pass-mine-project/>

2 <https://www.lithiumamericas.com/thacker-pass/>

3 <https://ndep.nv.gov/land/thacker-pass-project>

4 <https://www.nsenegybusiness.com/projects/thacker-pass-lithium-project-nevada-usa/>

5 <https://thisisreno.com/2021/07/tribes-up-involvement-after-judge-denies-injunction-against-thacker-pass-mine/>

6 <https://www.sierranevadaally.org/2021/07/26/dispatches-from-thacker-pass-electric-cars-and-oil-both-accelerate-us-towards-ecological-collapse/>

7 <https://gbrw.org/proposed-thacker-pass-lithium-mine/>

8 <https://www.sierranevadaally.org/2021/06/08/lithium-nevada-moves-back-the-start-of-thacker-pass-mine-construction/>

9 <https://www.lithiumamericas.com/sustainability/>

1

Whereas, the open pit area project would require 17,933 acres of land to start, then expand the parameters of the open pit mine by 5,200 acres per year following.

Whereas, Lithium America plans to mine nearly 6,000 acres in Thacker Pass, Nevada, creating an open-pit roughly one-half mile across and 2.3 miles long, with associated tailings piles and processing facilities.

Whereas, Lithium is found in Peehee Mu'huh soil at 2000-9000 ppm (0.2-0.9%). Producing one ton of Lithium will require strip mining and processing between 110 and 500 tons of Earth.

Whereas, the Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu tribe, or “People of Red Mountain”, currently reside in their native land known as Peehee mu'huh, “Thacker Pass”.

Whereas, The Peehee Mu'huh area is the original home of Northern Paiute and Western Shoshone Natives for generations.

Whereas, Peehee Mu'huh is a holy land blessed by spirits, ancestors, and bald eagles—the animal manifestation of the Creator. In addition, the area is a resting ground of ancestral deaths from wars fought against White settlers.

Whereas, the Atsa Koodakuh Why Nuwu tribe uses Peehee Mu'huh to celebrate their culture, religion, tribe, and Creator.

Whereas, the Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu tribe uses the wildlife, water, and food as resources to maintain the Native tribe's essential needs.

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Whereas, Much of the Peehee Mu’huh site is covered in old-growth big-sagebrush, with individuals over 100 years in age. This type of habitat is increasingly rare across Nevada.

Whereas, the wildlife that inhabits Peehee Mu’huh, such as jackrabbits, coyotes, groundhogs, mule deer, and golden eagles.

Whereas, the Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu tribe that continues to inhabit Peehee mu’huh, or “Thacker Pass,” will have their ancestral land confiscated from them to go towards the Lithium Mine. There are cultural sites, including obsidian processing areas and potentially burial sites, in the area directly surrounding the proposed mine

Whereas, the land of Peehee Mu’huh is in grave danger of pollution, contaminated water, losing their native ancestral land and resources to stay alive.

Whereas, the Peehee Mu’huh mine would burn around 11,300 gallons of diesel fuel per day for on-site operations and nearly as much again for off-site operations.

Whereas, Carbon emissions from the site would be more than 150,000 tons per year (during Phase 2), roughly 2.3 tons of carbon for every ton of Lithium produced.

Whereas, The mine could cause local springs to dry up and impact a critically endangered spring snail that only lives in the Thacker Pass area.

Whereas, declines in groundwater levels could cause meadows to become dustbowls and streams home to threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout to become increasingly inhospitable to fish.

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Whereas, The Nevada Department of Wildlife has described the proposed mine as having “adverse impacts to wildlife, ground and surface waters, and riparian vegetation within and outside the project area. These impacts include effects to an array of species and will likely have permanent ramifications on the area’s wildlife and habitat resources.”

Resolved, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada support the Atsa Koodakuh Wyh Nuwu tribe in their efforts to protect Peehee Mu’huh, primary resources, clean water, and food. The Associated Students of the University of Nevada oppose Lithium America’s decision to build a Lithium Mine on Peehee Mu’huh.

Resolved, President Sandoval will be given this resolution.

Resolved, a copy of the above resolution will be submitted to Governor Steve Sisolak in eager urgency.

Resolved, a copy of the above resolution will be given to the director of the Bureau Land Management.

Resolved, a copy of the above resolution will be sent to the Agency Director of the Nevada Wildlife Dept for review.

Resolved, a copy of the above resolution will be submitted to both Nevada Senators, Jackie Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto.

Resolved, a copy of the above resolution will be submitted to Nevada State Representatives, Dina Titus, Mark Amodei, Susie Lee, and Steven Horsford for review.

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