



www.americanwhitewater.org

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March, 27, 2013

Assemblyman Skip Daly
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 396

Dear Chairman Daly and Members of the Committee,

American Whitewater is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to protect and restore America's whitewater resources and enhance the public's ability to enjoy them safely. With over 5,500 members and 100 affiliate clubs, we represent the conservation interests of tens of thousands of whitewater enthusiasts across the country. Many of our members either reside in Nevada or frequently travel to the state to enjoy whitewater resources and connect with the landscape through rivers. As such, we have a direct interest in the public's right to paddle on rivers in the state of Nevada.

American Whitewater advocates nationally to protect and preserve the right of the public to travel in canoes, kayaks and rafts on the waters of all rivers and streams that are reasonably susceptible of passage, while respecting the property rights of private land owners. While the public right to utilize Nevada rivers in order to engage in recreation such as swimming, fishing, and boating has not been adversely impacted to our knowledge, that right has been adversely impacted in other states.

American Whitewater is proud to support Assembly Bill 396 as a clear declaration of the public's right to recreate on Nevada waterways that are capable of being navigated by an oar or paddle. This bill will codify the judicially recognized right of the public to utilize waterways held in the public trust, and will ensure that the public will have a limited right to access private property when necessary to portage around a natural or man-made obstacle. We are pleased to see that this bill aims to protect river resources by requiring that the public leave no trace by requiring the removal of any refuse or other property brought to the waterway by the public.

We believe that this bill will aid both the paddling public and landowners by clarifying the rights and responsibilities of each. We applaud the bill sponsors of this piece of

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legislation for their recognition of this important right and thank the Committee for its consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Steindorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dave Steindorf
California Stewardship Director

Cc: Assemblyman David Bobzien