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May 12, 2025

RE: SB 607 - OPPOSITION

Senator McGuire, Pro Tem

Via email:

Jason.Liles@sen.ca.gov; kip.lippper@sen.ca.gov; james.barba@sen.ca.gov; rebecca.wachsberg@sen.ca.gov; kimberly.rodriquez@sen.ca.gov

Dear Senator McGuire,

I am writing on behalf of The Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA), expressing strong opposition to SB 607 (Wiener). MBCA, founded in 1969 has a mission to advocate and educate for a healthy desert environment which nurtures wildlands and our communities' rural character, cultural abundance, and economic well-being.

There are continued efforts to capitalize on the allure of the high desert whose largely-intact ecosystem provides essential services to the environment and draws visitors, and those seeking nature, from throughout California and the world. Any development proposals must be carefully considered within the context of our rapidly changing climate and CEQA provides this essential process.

SB 607 would fundamentally alter the California Environmental Quality Act during a time of unprecedented rollback of environmental protections at the federal level. SB 607 would implement an extreme and ill-considered set of changes to the law that would leave the state less prepared to face the climate crisis and more vulnerable to future wildfires.

If this bill were to pass, many harmful projects including pipelines, data centers and waste storage facilities could be built in communities without sufficient environmental review or public participation.

During this time of unprecedented attacks on environmental regulations at the federal level, California should be doing everything in its power to protect our environmental laws, not gutting them. This extreme bill goes too far at a time when we need state-level environmental and community protections the most.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Steve Bardwell, President
Morongo Basin Conservation Association