

Nevada Legislature
Assembly Growth & Infrastructure
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

March 31, 2025

Public Health Support for Solar-Powered Affordable Housing (AB458)

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned health professionals and medical organizations serving Nevada, we are pleased to express our support for Solar-Powered Affordable Housing (AB458, Assemblymember Howard Watts). This legislation will lower energy costs for families, reduce air pollution across the state, and ensure all Nevadans can breathe healthier air.

AB458 will allow federally regulated multi-family affordable housing to participate in virtual net metering – a system that allows multiple households to share the benefits of a single solar installation through bill credits. This policy will leverage the \$156 million [Nevada Solar for All](#) (NFSA) award, unlock federal tax credits, and private funding to expand solar energy for lower-income households and reduce unhealthy pollution from fossil fuel combustion-based energy production.

Health impacts of energy production

Fossil fuel-based electricity generation produces significant levels of air pollutants that harm health and contribute to ground-level ozone and particle pollution. Pollutants released from energy production include [sulfur dioxide](#), [nitrogen dioxide](#), [carbon monoxide](#) and mercury, as well as [hazardous pollutants](#) that can cause cancer and decreased lung function. When sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are released, they contribute to the formation of two of our most widespread air pollutants – ozone and particle pollution.

Both Las Vegas and Reno rank among the [top 25 most polluted cities](#) for ozone, short-term, and annual particle pollution levels. Poor air quality increases the risk of preterm birth, worsens lung and heart diseases, and even premature death. The health burden of air pollution is not evenly shared. Children, seniors, people with existing lung or heart illness, communities of color and lower-income communities face [greater health risks](#) due to their exposure or other underlying health conditions.

Allowing solar on affordable housing supports clean air for all

Nevada's power sector generates dangerous levels of air pollution. The American Lung Association "[Zeroing in on Healthy Air](#)" report found transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and a renewable electricity grid (such as wind and solar) would result in **\$7.5 billion of health savings** between now and

2050. This means [675 premature deaths, 14,800 asthma attacks, and about 78,900 lost work days all avoided](#) by cleaning up our power and transportation sectors. AB458 is an important measure to provide a cleaner source of electricity for families on fixed incomes through solar installation. Not only will Nevada families benefit from lower utility costs and energy burdens, but this legislation will also help to reduce unhealthy air pollution across the state.

For these reasons, the American Lung Association and other public health professionals and organizations urge you to vote yes on AB458 to improve air quality for all Nevadans, and prioritize investments in communities most impacted by air pollution burdens. Thank you for your leadership to clean up harmful pollution and secure a strong clean energy future. Please contact Melissa Ramos at melissa.ramos@lung.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

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