



# Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

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## Nevada Farm Bureau Statement To Senate Natural Resources Committee Regarding SB 31 March 6, 2025, 2025

For the record, I'm Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of Nevada Farm Bureau.

We are opposing SB 31 on the basis that we believe that the federal government is being granted unfair preference and don't believe that it is necessary for this bill to include the provisions that are being proposed.

It was our understanding that the purpose for adopting NRS 533.087 and requiring proofs of vested rights was to get these unknown claims on the table within a time-frame...December 31<sup>st</sup> 2027.

The current law says that if a claimant fails to file such proof on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027 – that claim will be deemed to be abandoned.

As we read the new language, this doesn't apply to claims that the federal government decides that they have. A private sector water right owner has to comply with the December 31 deadline, but the federal government doesn't have to do anything and can file their claims long after a private sector water right owner's claim has been abandoned, if they didn't jump through the hoops that the federal government didn't have to comply with.

We appreciate the discussions that have been taking place prior to this hearing and we welcome the clarifying amendments that have been proposed or might still be pending.

In a state which is so dominated by federal agencies exerting their authority, sometimes on the basis of what they themselves have decided as theirs, we think there should be more of a level playing field, which SB 31 seems to not require.