

First, I'd like to thank you all for your time and effort.

Now is your chance to show you have not ignored Nevada's Rural population, Nevada's Native population, Nevada's environment, and Nevada's future generations.

Moreover; now is your chance to allay our nagging suspicions that this whole process was just a politically motivated effort to copy the Los Angeles buy up of Owens Valley water by “unbundling” water rights for purchase on the open market.

Adrian Walsh of the University of New England, in [\*\*The Commodification of the Public Service of Water: A Normative Perspective\*\*](#), states: “Commodification will, in most cases, be at odds with commonly endorsed environmental values and will limit any government's ability to act in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.”

Promoters of this “unbundling” scheme have used Australia as an example. But not everyone considers the “unbundling” of water in Australia to be such a success. In fact, [\*\*ABC Australia reported\*\*](#) that “The water market conspicuously failed to live up to the expectations of the National Water Initiative, driving down water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin to critically low levels at a time when conservation should have been paramount. The dire consequences for the environment, communities and economy of the Basin were clear for all to see.”

Sadly, the water users most likely to suffer from unbundling are small family farms. Anthony S. Kiem's article [\*\*Drought and Water Policy in Australia\*\*](#) concludes; “there are also some *significant limitations* and the people and industries that are negatively impacted by water trading are hit hard.” ...And; “However, these benefits are limited to the larger, well-informed irrigators *at the expense* of the smaller “family farm” organizations”

On the other hand; a large number of offshore players (speculators) have been quite active in Australia's water market. Which means unbundling benefits foreign financial speculators, and drives water prices up, at the expense of family farms.

The last thing this Forum wants to be accused of doing is using “Shock Doctrine” tactics to ram through exploitative laws that benefit only the greedy.

Besides, the over allocated Nevada Valleys didn't just happen. State politicians and bureaucrats who were unwilling to say “no” got us into this crisis. And now it appears they may want to seize power away from local control and entice our elected representatives to make it worse by passing bills to further enable unrestrained exploitation of Nevada's water resources.

You have the influence to say that this is a bad idea.

Water is *the* one resource that *always* has to be thought about in the long term.  
Water is life.

Or in other words:

*No* economy can withstand the collapse of our Environment.

Thank you for your time,  
Rick Spilsbury