September 28th, 2022

To: Ms. Angelita Bulletts  
District Manager, BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Jon Raby  
Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management  
1340 Financial Blvd.  
Reno, NV 89502

Nada Culver  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
189 C Street NW  
Washington DC, 20240

Re: Letter of Support for the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern Nomination

Dear Ms. Bulletts,

The undersigned organizations are requesting that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) establish the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect important Mojave Desert habitats.

The BLM has received several large energy applications for the Indian Springs Valley in Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, in the middle of the most crucial desert tortoise connectivity corridor in southern Nevada. The area also includes Cactus Springs, a rare wetland in the desert. We need to protect this place.

We are submitting the Cactus Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern nomination to the BLM to protect 58,000 acres of this Mojave Desert scrub, alluvial fans, galleta grass washes, badlands with Ice Age fossils, and Cactus Springs--an important water resource and mesquite woodland.

This petition nominates public lands Priority One Desert Tortoise Connectivity Habitat in the Indian Springs Valley for status as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The significant hydrological, biological, and cultural resources of Cactus Spring is also included. These lands are primarily located in Clark County, Nevada and the nomination is approximately
58,000 acres in extent. This nomination describes the significant environmental resources and values of these lands, and the need for special management attention. Based on current knowledge and data, the area highlighted in this nomination has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as the most critical desert tortoise connectivity corridor in Southern Nevada. This connectivity corridor is located within the Indian Springs Valley which connects the Amargosa and Pahrump Valleys on the west and north sides of the Spring Mountains and connects them to the Las Vegas Valley on the east side. The region represents an important high Mojave Desert habitat and contains a variety of important native species found in the region. Mammoth fossils have been found at Cactus Spring.

Thank you for your consideration to protect this important Mojave Desert habitat.

The full ACEC nomination can be viewed here: Cactus Springs ACEC tortoise (basinandrangewatch.org)

Sincerely,

Laura Cunningham
California Director
Western Watersheds Project

Olivia Brister
Environmental Justice Program Manager
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Jim Boone
Owner
BirdAndHike.com; Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC

Patrick Donnelly
Great Basin Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Steve Bardwell
President
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Michelle Bashin
President
Desert Survivors

Kevin Emmerich
Co-Founder and Director
Basin and Range Watch

Shannon Salter
Executive Director
Mojave Green

Michael Painter
Coordinator
Californians for Western Wilderness