

February 1, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the formal submission separately being presented by Sky Tavern requesting the ability to install terrain lighting at their facility.

As one of a strong and engaged group of interested citizens, please review and consider my support for the use of Lights at Sky Tavern, a city-owned asset operated by the Sky Tavern 501c3 non-profit Sports Education Organization.

**Reasons for my support:**

- Sustainable - Lights change everything related to the organization's sustainability as the normal weekend programs reach capacity quickly. With the lights, after-school programs could satisfy this community's need for affordable and productive mountain sports programming.
- Training Support - The New University of Nevada NCAA Division 1 Alpine race team would greatly benefit from evening training that will better coordinate into their scholastic schedule.
- Constructive Activity - Washoe County High School District alpine race teams will also greatly benefit by getting participants on the hill after school instead of removing them from their regular school curriculum. There is tremendous value in after school activities for local youth since it does not interfere with their educational time, and it allows them to maintain their commitment to both school and to participate in constructive after school programming.
- Vision - Sky Tavern's Alpine Race Team aspires to create the nation's best development program. Long-term the possibility exists for participating athletes to achieve a University of Nevada scholarship or to race in the NCAA (national events) or perhaps even the Olympics! With more hill time, we train our kids towards greater academic and athletic achievements!

**The local community will benefit from night events that include, but are not limited to expanded program capacity with:**

- Adult Team Racing events
- Adaptive ski training
- High school racing
- Pro race events that would help increase the local tourism economy

**The Hill and Why Night Recreation:**

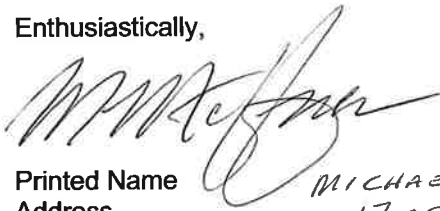
The Race Hill at Sky Tavern is a homologation-certified FIS (i.e. regulated International Ski and Snowboard Federation) race hill, making it one of the best training hills in the Tahoe region.

Training at night is better training:

- It's safer as the lighting is steady and non-changing.
- It's faster, as the surface is firm and fast, creating better race terrain conditions.
- It keeps children and University Students in school.
- Families can all be actively involved.
- And while this letter leads into early planning ideas, long-term this same project will directly benefit other important "medal" sports, such as moguls, skier cross, and snowboarding.

In short, I am sending this letter to assure you that this careful planning for Sky Tavern will allow the resort to build a comprehensive program model, further enhanced by lights, that will significantly improve the Recreational opportunities and development of our local youth and athletes. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Enthusiastically,



Printed Name

MICHAEL HEFFNER

Address

1705 CAUGHLIN CREEK RD

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager

RENO 89519

March 20, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: Support of Nightlights at Sky Tavern

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I'm writing in support for Sky Tavern who is seeking an arnendment to their Special Use Permit (SUP) to add nightlights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

Sky Tavern is also a great training area for our local high school ski teams. Installing lights will allow our high school teams to train during the week which will not interfere with the above mentioned weekend programs. All of the local high school sports complexes for track, football, baseball and soccer have nightlights that allow for students to train into the evening. Presently, our high school ski teams do not have this benefit. Being able to train after school and into the evening means students will not have to miss class in order to train.

I am a former high school ski racer, a high school ski coach, a high school teacher, and my daughter is a current high school ski racer. You don't get much more invested in high school racing than I do. One of the biggest issues with being a high school racer is the amount of school that they must miss in order to race. On a normal year it amounts to 8 days of missed school for races. Adding lights will allow us to hold races in the evenings which will dramatically reduce the amount of classroom instruction that students (and coaches who are teachers) will miss. The opportunity to train in the evenings will give these student athletes far more training time on the hill dramatically improving their skills as athletes. Please allow this adjustment for the benefit of our local students.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the early evenings during winter and early spring.

I support this project and ask favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Respectfully,



Aaron Shoolroy  
Reno High School Science Faculty and Assistant Ski Coach



*MRBPWC, Inc.*

*Members of the  
Board of Directors and the  
Membership of the water company*

## **Public Comment Special Use Permit**

### **Case Number WSUP236-0016 (Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program Expansion)**

**Environmental management and best practices at Sky Tavern are not consistent with the Mt Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan or are equivalent to other City of Reno, Washoe County Parks, and/or NV State Parks guidelines, plans, and best practices.**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES of the **Mt Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan** (Chapt. 1, pg. 6)

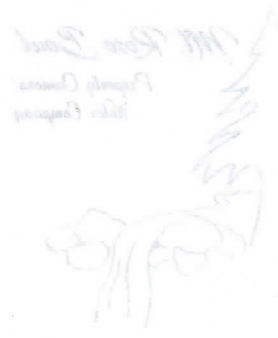
Specific project recommendations are described in Chapter 4 to help realize the goals.

Preserve the Scenic Quality and Natural Resources

- Enhance the Corridor's environmental assets.

Sky Tavern, as an organization, has been focused on increasing access and recreation on-site for both winter and summer recreation options, including extensive trail building to support the Mountain bike and Ski programs. During this process, environmental best management practices have not been followed, and the corridor's environmental assets have not been enhanced. Here are some examples of projects that have been constructed without permitting and environmental mitigation or proper management and consideration:

2016/2017- Sky Taven had a volunteer grade over 4 acres of a steep grade ski slope on the main trail system without a permit and without erosion mitigation or control, creating mass wasting infringement upon 2 wetland systems. Revegetation/replanting was also not performed on the slope. Residents met with mountain staff several times, and although revegetation was promised, no revegetation was performed. Mass wasting and deep erosion channels are prevalent throughout the area and visible along the old Mt Rose corridor across the face of Sky Tavern 6 years later. Photos:



Case Number WSUP23-0016 (Sky T  
Public Comment 2



Environmental management and best practices at Sky Tavern are not consistent with the Mt Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan or are equivalent to other Corridor, Washoe County Parks, and/or NV State Parks guidelines. practices.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES of the Mt Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan are described on page 6. Specific project recommendations are described in the Environmental Assessment. Preserve the Scenic Quality and Natural Resources. Enhance the Corridor's environmental assets. Sky Tavern, as an organization, has been focused on winter and summer recreation options, including mountain biking and ski programs. During this process, environmental best management practices have not been followed, and the corridor's environmental assets have not been enhanced. Here are some examples of projects that have been constructed without permitting and environmental mitigation or proper management and consideration:

2016/2017 - Sky Tavern had a volunteer grade over 4 acres of a steep grade ski slope on the main trail system without a permit and without erosion mitigation or control, creating mass wasting and erosion. Vegetation replanting was also not performed on the slope. Residents met with mountain staff several times, and although revegetation was promised, no revegetation was performed. Mass wasting and deep erosion channels are prevalent throughout the area and visible along the old Mt Rose corridor across the face of Sky Tavern 8 years later. Photos:



Stream re-route summers 22/23- The original stream channel was deemed inconvenient to the parking lot at Sky Tavern and was re-routed to the adjacent pond and stream channel. No erosion control was implemented or restoration of the abandoned stream channel.

All years- Sky Tavern has dredged and covered a wetland and stream, which is designated as Water of the US to try and mitigate the surface water melting snow. No environmental best practices were followed or permits pulled. This ongoing project and water system management contributed to significant erosion and a decline in Water quality.

For many years- Mountain bike trail building has been done without permits, environmental review, or implementation of best management practices for side cuts and erosion control. (see picture and description below)

Wetland fill summers 22/23- after being denied a USACE permit to dredge a stream and wetland area for snowmaking Sky Tavern added fill to extend a dirt road system around their shop building- no environmental review, best practices for erosion control or permits were followed.

- Balance the demand for recreation with the need for natural resource protection.

Trails have been constructed on an as-wanted basis without environmental planning review or best management practices in place. Side cuts have been made for trails, leaving exposed roots and mass wasting. Landscaping guidelines for the stabilization of slopes to protect the environment and water quality have not been followed. Allowing Sky Tavern to get exemptions from environmental and landscape requirements is compromising the environmental sustainability of the mountain. Inputs for erosion are a threat to the health of the watershed. Allowing Sky Taven to avoid environmental best management practices is also not equitable to other local organizations that are going through

full environmental assessments and adhering to trail building standard best management practices outlined by national/state/county regulations. Photo example (mild photo- these conditions and more severe are prevalent).



- Ensure water quality and watershed protection are maintained through best management practices.

Sky Tavern has two wetland systems and two headwater streams designated as Water of The US by the Army Corps of Engineers. These waterways are the water supplies to 3 small public water systems prior to entering the Truckee Meadow System. Sky Tavern has taken leeway to drain, fill, and re-route these waterways as desired. Following being denied a permit from USCAE to dredge a pond for snowmaking storage, Sky Tavern added fill to the wetland area to build a road around their shop building. Sky Tavern has also channelized one of the streams with a backhoe and added rudimentary roof/wood structures to stop the wetland water from being on the surface and melting snow. The wetland system has experienced significant drying from channelization and erosion intrusion from the slope grading. Sky Tavern has also routed a bike trail through the wetland. The channelized stream has not been armored and is contributing significant erosion to the water system.

- Minimize erosion and disruption to the environment.

This is not being followed, please see above.

- Provide for fuel treatment and noxious weed removal to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire

Sky Tavern has been working with the Fire Wise and local defensible space planning and funding organizations. Plans have been released to clear significant dead and downed fuels on Sky Tavern property- specifically on the boundaries with private property, which have historically been left untraded due to the distance from the main ski operations area. The defensible space work has not been started in over 3 years of promised work. This work should be prioritized monetarily over the expansion and construction of new facilities vulnerable to fire.

**Solution:**

Sky Tavern needs to be held to the same environmental management guidelines, rules, and regulations as any other City of Reno, Washoe County, or State Park within the Mt Rose Corridor. Conduct an impartial environmental review of the property (DO NOT allow the Environmental Consulting firm affiliated with the current Sky Tavern management to perform the review) to identify restoration needs and have Sky Tavern perform those restorations as a condition of expansion. Do not allow Sky Tavern an exemption from landscaping features that address the erosion of side cut/slope stabilization. Require Sky Tavern to restore/mitigate the impact on the Waters of the US.

Mountain Sustainability Program- all surrounding Ski Mountains in the Reno/Tahoe area have Environmental Sustainability and Management Programs to address all aspects of mountain management in relation to environmental quality, water conservation, and waste management. Sky Tavern needs to match the industry standard and dedicate funding and programming to a comparable environmental sustainability program.





*MRBPWC, Inc.  
Members of the  
Board of Directors and the  
Membership of the water company*

## **Public Comment Special Use Permit**

### **Case Number WSUP236-0016 (Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program Expansion)**

#### **Site Lighting - Night Skiing**

*Residents of Bum's Gulch do not support the expansion of Sky Tavern operations to include night skiing.*

1. The Mount Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan specifically outlines goals and parameters as it applies to lighting. The addition of night skiing will violate numerous items outlined in the Mount Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan.
  - a. Page 9: Visual Quality
    - i. Light pollution from street lights, parking lot lights, local signage, and development can interrupt the night skies that residents and visitors enjoy.
  - b. Page 101: Principles of Geotourism
    - i. Conservation of Resources: Encourage businesses to minimize water pollution, solid waste, energy consumption, water usage, landscaping chemicals, and overly bright nighttime lighting.
  - c. Page 106: Washoe County Regional Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan
    - i. Visual and Scenic Character
      - Goal 1: Protect the region's visual and scenic resources.
      - Goal 2: Preserve and protect the visual integrity of our region's hillsides, ridges, and hilltops.
      - Goal 3: Preserve the remaining integrity of our region's dark night sky
  - d. Page 108: Washoe Country General Plan – Forest Area Plan
    - i. F.8.2 Washoe County will adopt further standards to enhance and maintain the value of the Corridor as a scenic area. At a minimum, these standards will address landscaping, building height, setback, lighting, and signage. The standards will limit the establishment of new commercial land uses, including those established by special use permit, on SR 431 between the intersections of Thomas Creek Parkway and Timberline Drive. Further standards will

address the use of interpretive displays for travelers along the roadway. Signage may be lighted, but not in such a way that it impacts the dark sky goals of the County.

2. Night skiing operations historically fail at most resorts.
  - a. Increased operational costs are incredibly high including power, maintenance, rime built up, power outages, and extreme weather.
  - b. Compromises operations for daytime preparations. Snowmaking, lift maintenance, and grooming requirements must be delayed, starting well into the night and shortening the window to properly and safely prepare the mountain for normal operations.
  - c. Guests prefer to ski in the warmer daylight hours when visibility is better and snow conditions are more favorable.
  - d. Safety issues and increase of risk, injury, and death.
    - i. Snow conditions are very poor after normal operating hours, becoming icy from skiers and dropping temperatures.
    - ii. Trails cannot be groomed prior to night operations unless snow cats are present on the mountain with skiers.
    - iii. A wrong turn can send a skier into a dark forest. The majority of the gradients at Sky Tavern do not lead to the base. Western slopes lead to Galena Canyon, a steep, thickly wooded area with a high-flow creek at the bottom. South slopes lead to switchbacks on Mt Rose Highway. The East slope leads to the homes on Bums Gulch.

### **Solution**

1. The goal of adding night skiing to the Sky Tavern is to provide additional operating hours to introduce more of Reno's children to the sport of skiing. The residents of Bum's Gulch wholly support this goal; many of us have enjoyed such programs ourselves as children. The simple solutions are to:
  - a. Operate for more days of the week.
  - b. Stay open until 5 PM.
  - c. Dismiss students who form school on specific days offer skiing instead of traditional schooling such as physical and health education. This is a common practice an many schools in ski towns.

### **Parking Lot Repaving**

- a. Parking Lot repaving and restriping may affect the Mount Rose Bowl Property Owners Water Company, INC (MRBPOWC, Inc) well on the far side of the wetlands.

- b. The well provides emergency potable water for MRBPOWC, Inc. membership and first became necessary after the 1976 drought when the main spring could not sustain water for the community.
- c. No part of the Special Use Permit has addressed this issue.
- d. At a minimum, parking should be restricted near the vault and power pole.
- e. Once per year, this is flushed, and water specimens are collected for contaminants, both mineral and bacterial.
- f. Connections for shut off and redirection for the water flow would most likely be affected as the valves are located near the Inside the vault at the water meter,
  - i. Isolation valves (one on either side of the meter) and access to the distribution lines.
  - ii. A third isolation valve is located on the street.

### **SNOWMAKING WATER TANK**

MRBPOWC, Inc. sites concerns with the addition of two snowmaking water tanks based on the potential impacts of the aquifer that sustains our community's potable water. The tanks proposed are 1 million and 2 million gallons.

- 3. A September 1, 1978 attached report outlines the surface and underground water rights granted to MRBPOWC, Inc
  - a. The extended drought period from 1976 to 1977 put substantial stress on our primary spring water source, with water restrictions for no outdoor watering and restrictions on households to only 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening.
  - b. Considering warming trends, additional and extended droughts can be considered for the benefit of the current and future generations.
  - c. Draining the current aquifer to make snow, thereby exposing it to dry air, runoff, and evaporation, reduces the refilling of the water table.
  - d. The Special Use Permit does not address added stress or site any studies to suggest that the shared aquifer can accommodate the increased water draw.

### **INCREASED TRAFFIC**

- 1. With the increase in people and cars, trash will have a negative impact on this mostly pristine area.
- 2. The parking lot is currently a problem as our unimproved county road, Bums Gluch, is frequently impeded, causing safety concerns for the families of Bum's Gulch should there be an emergency.

- a. The Old Mount Rose Highway will also be affected by overflow parking and should be considered for some sort of mitigation.

### **LIABILITY ISSUES FOR RESIDENTS**

The residents of Bums Gulch Rd would like assurances that skiers who leave the resort boundary crossing onto our private lands will not be liable for any injury that may occur.

- a. Currently, skiers travel below the ski area boundary and travers our properties to the private portion of Bum's Gulch, Rd.
- b. Gradients on the south and east sides make it nearly impossible for a snowboarder to ride back into the ski area from the resort boundary.
- c. Having more people on the slopes will increase the number of people who end up in our backyards.
- d. The stream running next to Bums Gulch Rd is covered in the winter with snow and is not visible. The ice underneath the snow is not stable and could collapse, dropping someone into the freezing water.
- e. There are numerous obstacles under the snow on our properties that can injure or kill Sky Tavern customers who ski beyond the resort boundary.

### **ROAD ON EAST SLOPE**

- a. Figures 1, 2, and 3 are site maps wherein a road is indicated with dashed red lines on the east slope of Sky Tavern. It should be noted that most of this road is wholly revegetated and filled.
- b. The residents of Bum's Gulch do not support any attempt to rehabilitate the road.
- c. Similar work at Sky Tavern has resulted in erosion. Homes on Bums Gulch Rd. will be unprotected from the runoff and erosion caused by the disturbed hillsides.
- d. As mentioned earlier, additional access to the east slope of Sky Tavern will result in Sky Tavern guests being stuck on the private properties on Bums Gulch, making the private residents subject to liability of Sky Tavern's guests' injury.

### **SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS**

A forward-thinking agenda for Sky Tavern will help enhance current services and broaden the facility's usefulness to a broader range of residents and visitors. However, prior to significant new capital projects, the current infrastructure's upkeep, repair, and enhancement should be addressed.

**a. Sky Tavern Lodge**

The once magnificent Sky Tavern Lodge reflected Sierra Nevada architecture, showcasing the style of a National Park. The current facility's industrial appearance is out of place in its environment and cheapens the Reno brand. The interior is in desperate need of repair. We would welcome a full restoration of the lodge, enhanced services, and food and beverage options.

**b. Lifts**

Sky Tavern lifts are extremely old and outdated. Upkeep, maintenance, and possible replacement should be a top priority.

**c. Rehabilitation of Wildflower Meadows**

Formally, the base area meadows of Sky Tavern were a destination for wildflower painters and photographers. Due to unchecked erosion, these meadows have been destroyed.

**d. Environmental Education Programs**

Such programs can be offered to a broad demographic of children and adults. Additionally, environmental programs can provide an alternative to skiing for children who may not enjoy skiing but could enjoy the physical and educational benefits of spending time outdoors.

**OVERSITE**

Sky Tavern must receive 3<sup>rd</sup> party oversight for all projects and development.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

- Sally Broili: 12045 Bum's Gulch Rd
- Chris Minnes: 12065 Bum's Gulch Rd.
- Cody Nelson: 12025 Bum's Gulch Rd.
- Rebecca Williams: 12005 Bum's Gulch Rd.
- John Williams: 12005 Bum's Gulch Rd.
- Monica Thomas-Kleinbach: 11045 Bum's Gulch Rd.
- Benjamin Kleinbach: 11045 Bum's Gulch Rd.

September 1, 1978

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed for your reference is a copy of a letter written to all property owners in the Mt. Rose Bowl Subdivision (No. 1 and 2) that describes the background and status of our mutual water supply as of September 30, 1973. In this correspondence we also asked your support for the formation of the Mt. Rose Bowl Property Owners Association (MRBPOA).

In response to this effort MRBPOA was formed and incorporated in July, 1975, as a non-profit corporation. The primary objective of this organization was to facilitate the procurement and protection of water rights for this Subdivision and associated commercial properties.

#### Surface Water Rights

The first major activity that MRBPOA undertook, in addition to continuing negotiations with the Mt. Rose Development Company (MRD) for the transfer of water rights, was to petition the State Engineer to allow our entering into the adjudication of Browns Creek of which our springs are tributary. At this time the water right from these springs was based only upon a "claimed" vested right. The purpose of this adjudication process was to settle in court which claims to water are valid. In cooperation with MRBPOA, MRD hired a consultant engineering firm to survey, prepare proofs, maps, and title searches, etc. that were required by the court in support of the claimed spring water rights. MRD and MRBPOA, respectively, paid \$3,000.00 and \$650.00 for engineering, legal and associated costs of this adjudication process. Fortunately, the court in May, 1976, upheld these claimed spring rights.

In 1976, MRD indicated that they would transfer these water rights to MRBPOA, provided we amend the bylaws such that MRBPOA could function as a mutual water company, thereby insuring the equitable distribution of water between water users. In return MRD requested that MRBPOA reimburse them (MRD) for the adjudication costs that they paid to the engineering firm.

MRBPOA at that time began the process of forming a water company. In 1977 an attorney, Mr. Ross de Lipkau, was retained to provide legal guidance in preparing a set of bylaws for a mutually owned, non-profit water organization. The first draft of these bylaws was reviewed on November 20, 1977, in a general meeting by MRBPOA members.

In response to our efforts to form this water organization, the MRD Board of Directors on November 15, 1977, passed a resolution whereby the spring water rights could be transferred to the MRBPOA water organization providing MRD would be reimbursed for the adjudication cost. Mr. Ludwig Kraus, General Manager of MRD, presented this resolution to MRBPOA at the November 20, 1977, meeting. It was subsequently resolved by the MRBPOA members at this meeting to accept the MRD offer of transfer of the spring water rights in return for reimbursing MRD for their portion of the adjudication costs.

#### Underground Water Rights

In 1976, MRBPOA made application to divert water from a small diameter (6 or 8") well in the vicinity of Grass Lake and/or above in a less suitable site in "Bums Gulch" canyon. This action was taken to meet the current and anticipated future water demands, to alleviate seasonal and/or extended drought periods as just experienced in 1976-1977, and to serve as a backup water supply during emergencies when the 33 year old pipeline fails.<sup>1</sup> If a pumped well could be successfully constructed in the vicinity of Grass Lake, the pressure fluctuation experienced downstream on the pipeline as a result of the pump operation at the Margarita's Restaurant could be reduced.

Later in November, 1976, the City of Reno Public Works Department protested the MRBPOA well application by claiming that any wells in this area would dry up Grass Lake. Ironically, however, in 1977, the City of Reno made an application to pump over 3 million gallons annually from a well located in Grass Lake to support further recreational development in the area. ~~After considering the protest made by the City of Reno, the State (Water) Engineer ruled partly in favor of both MRBPOA and the City by allowing the MRBPOA well applications, and restricted the use from these proposed wells to the current (1977) water users.~~

Currently, MRBPOA is negotiating with the City

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1. Our most recent water supply failure was experienced in the summer and fall of 1977 when the spring (Cert. 4684) flow reduced to less than 1.0 gpm. During this period, in spite of our rationing water (limiting use to two periods a day)--morning and evening meals) the tank emptied several times causing the upper portion of the redwood tank to dry out and leak to the extent that it was difficult to fill with the small spring inflow. To fill the tank, we had to ask the City of Reno to give us water. We had the same problem during the summer of 1976, prior to the rainy period that started in August. Before 1976, most of the water failures were attributed to pipelines freezing, ruptures, individual household losses, and normal seasonal (fall and winter) low flow periods or during weekend and holiday increased water usage.

of Reno to gain access on City Property to commence refurbishing an existing well that was used to supply the Subdivision during the last extended drought in 1959-61. The City is attempting, however, to maneuver MRBPOA into a bargaining position to sign an agreement whereby an easement would be granted by the City, provided MRBPOA agrees to service only the existing (1977) water users and will not supply from this well, water for additional water users.

#### Legal Constraints

Recently, as a result of several undeveloped lot owners request for building permits in the Mt. Rose Bowl Subdivisions, the Washoe County Health Department is requiring written proof from the State Engineer and a water service organization such as the contemplated MRBPOA one that guarantees a water supply of 900 to 1440 gallons per day per residence for fire and domestic use requirements. From a water supply standpoint for the current water users, even if we are allowed to develop a well, we can only, by the State Engineer's restriction, provide 537 gallons per day per water user. While we do not argue with the county's requirement, we feel that it will be very expensive, if not physically and politically prohibitive, to develop this large water supply.

Additionally, as indicated above, the State Engineer has restricted our use from the spring and the proposed well development to those current (1977) water users.

Originally MRBPOA intended to invite all property owners within its service area including undeveloped lot owners to participate financially in developing a water supply for current and future use. In light of the above, Washoe County Health Department requirements, the State Engineer's constraints, and the action of the City of Reno, it does not appear prudent or equitable to require unimproved property owners to financially participate in developing a water supply that they may not be able to use. For those individuals who are owners of undeveloped lots, it is suggested that financial participation for the procurement of currently permitted and certificated water rights be optional.

#### Recommended Procedures



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**From:** Julianne Zotter <julianne@robisoneng.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** Washoe311 <Washoe311@washoecounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Item No. 8.B

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

I would like to write in my support for the Sky Tavern expansion Special Use Permit Application. Having a local ski resort become the main mountain for our community's kids is so incredibly important. Installing lights to support night skiing will encourage more kids to get involved with skiing and ski racing.

[ROBISON ENGINEERING COMPANY, Inc](#)  
Julianne Zotter, PE, CEM  
President, Environmental Engineer

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**From:** Michael Smith <michael@robisoneng.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** Washoe311 <Washoe311@washoecounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Sky Tavern Night Lighting - Public Hearing Agenda Item 8b

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

This email is a note in favor of allowing night lighting for night skiing at Sky Tavern, item 8B on the agenda for tomorrow's public hearing.

Sky Tavern has been a HUGE community asset, including teaching me and my two children, and many of my friends to ski, and producing Olympic gold medalists. Allowing night skiing, even a regulated window of time, would greatly enhance the area's capacity to continue to train young skiers. The community benefit is clear.

I encourage the Board to make necessary adjustments to allow this request.

Thank you.

**Michael S. Smith, PE, PLS, SWRS**  
[michael@robisoneng.com](mailto:michael@robisoneng.com)  
**ROBISON ENGINEERING Company, Inc.**

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**From:** Debbie Leonard <[debbie@leonardlawpc.com](mailto:debbie@leonardlawpc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 7:33 AM  
**To:** Washoe311 <[Washoe311@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Washoe311@washoecounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments on WSUP23-0016 Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program Expansion

**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment,

I am a property owner on Sky Tavern Road and am writing to object to certain portions of the special use permit application for the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program Expansion and to request additional conditions. While I am largely supportive of the Sky Tavern programming, I offer the following comments:

1. I oppose the addition of night skiing and lighting. Adding lighting will negatively impact wildlife, dark skies, and views. Nighttime programming will bring noise and crowds and negatively impact wildlife and neighboring properties. I agree with staff's recommendation to deny the addition of lighting and night skiing. As staff points out, lighting and night skiing would be inconsistent with the County Master Plan.
2. Disturbed sites should be revegetated with native vegetation for dust and erosion control.
3. The applicant should be required to develop and achieve milestones to reduce traffic to the site and mitigate carbon emissions, including providing electric bus service from various locations in Reno/Sparks and instituting mandatory carpooling for participants.
4. Construction should not occur during high fire risk conditions to avoid sparks that ignite a wildfire.
5. The applicant should allow the public to access certain areas of the site (such as the slopes closest to Bums Gulch Road) for backcountry skiing (including uphill and downhill travel) so long as they do not interfere with grooming operations.

Thank you,  
Debbie Leonard

## **Debbie Leonard**

Attorney and Mediator

## **Leonard Law, PC**

phone 775.964.4656

955 S. Virginia Street | Suite 220 | Reno, Nevada 89502

[debbie@leonardlawpc.com](mailto:debbie@leonardlawpc.com)

[www.leonardlawpc.com](http://www.leonardlawpc.com)

April 4, 2024

Dear Board Of Adjustment:

Attached are letters of support in favor of the amendment to Sky Tavern's SUP to support snowmaking and lights.

The signers of letters include:

Lt. Governor Stavros Anthony

UNR President Brian Sandoval

Washoe County School District Acting Superintendent Kristen McNeil, Ed. D

Cameron Smith, Head Coach of the UNR Ski Team

Roy Tuscan, CEO of High Fives

Stan Jaeger, President of the Arrowcreek HOA

Kurt Mische, President of PBS Reno

Chris Askin, Former CEO of the Community Foundation of No. Nevada

Richard Keillor, Publisher of the Galena Times

Deane Albright, CPA, Founding Partner Albright & Associates

Paul Krak Arntson, Sky Tavern Ski race team parent

Jerry Eykelbosh, Sky Tavern Ski race team parent

Rich Cummins & Dr. Naomi Albertson, MD

Mitchell Strominger, MD; President, Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Mendy Elliott, Member of the Nevada Council on Tourism

James Cooney, Head Coach of the North Valleys High School Ski Team

Chris Gant, Asst. Coach of Manogue High School Ski Team

Robert Dennis, Head Coach, Wooster High School Ski Team

John Schroeder, Sky Tavern Ski race team parent

Jennifer Santo, Sky Tavern Ski race team parent

Frieda Hulka, MD, Sky Tavern Ski race team parent

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the amendment to the SUP.

Sincerely,

Randi Thompson

Sky Tavern Board Member



# OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STAVROS S. ANTHONY**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 25, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustments  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: Sky Tavern Ski Area – SUP for ski lighting during evening hours

Dear Board Members,

As the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Outdoor Recreation in Nevada, I have had the privilege of visiting Sky Tavern several times. Sky is not only training the next generation of skiers, which has a positive economic impact on the community, but provides a way for our community's underprivileged youth to access affordable skiing.

Sky Tavern is planning to install lights to enable night skiing and race training. This improvement will have a positive impact on the recreational opportunities in our community.

1. Opening evenings for ski training for our high school race teams would allow students to train without missing class. It also means shorter travel time to ski areas, as Sky Tavern is just 15 minutes up Mt. Rose Highway.
2. Lights will allow for Sky Tavern to host nighttime adult race leagues. Just as Reno Ice has generated numerous adult and youth hockey leagues in Reno, Sky Tavern is doing the same thing by expanding recreational opportunities for adults and children who may not be able to participate during the day.

Night skiing is such a unique event, and its addition will further define our region as a top outdoor recreation center. I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal amount of impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur during winter and early spring in the evenings.

I support this project and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stavros S. Anthony".

Stavros S. Anthony  
Nevada Lieutenant Governor



University of Nevada, Reno

**Brian Sandoval**

President

February 7, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9th Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: Support of Lights at Sky Tavern

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the formal submission separately being presented by Sky Tavern requesting the ability to install terrain lighting at its facility.

As president of the University of Nevada, Reno, a community made up of students, student-athletes, faculty and others who benefit from the opportunities offered by Sky Tavern, I ask that you consider my support for the use of Lights at Sky Tavern, a city-owned asset operated by the Sky Tavern 501c3 non-profit Sports Education Organization.

Our University has a long and storied history in skiing, and Sky Tavern has played a large role in supporting this program. Our men's and women's alpine ski teams, which returned in 2022, practice regularly on the Sky Tavern slopes. The addition of terrain lighting would have a direct and significant impact for our teams. The possibility of evening training would allow our student-athletes more flexibility to attend courses and study sessions during the day, empowering them to continue to excel academically while also succeeding in their athletic careers.

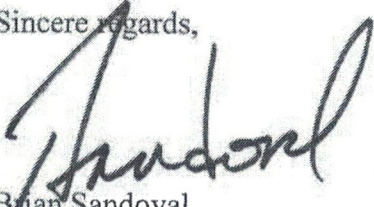
The Lights at Sky Tavern initiative would also have important benefits for our school-age children in Northern Nevada. By extending the hours during which Sky Tavern is open, after-school programs would gain access the mountain outside of weekends and Washoe County High School teams would have additional opportunities in the afternoons and evenings to practice. Increased exposure to winter sports for both children and high school students in Northern Nevada ultimately would help to strengthen the pipeline for future University of Nevada, Reno athletes and could result in more students considering college as a path after high school.

**Office of the President**  
Clark Administration, Room 201  
University of Nevada, Reno/001  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0001  
(775) 784-4805  
brian@unr.edu  
**WSUP23-0016**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
www.unr.edu/president

On our campus and at our Lake Tahoe location, we value the importance of outdoor activities and exercise, which contribute greatly to the mental health of our students, faculty and staff. The programs and experiences offered at Sky Tavern align with these values, ensuring that our local community and members of the University community can experience the outdoors and take part in the positive effects of skiing and snowboarding. Expanding access to Sky Tavern would ensure those on campus and in the Reno-Tahoe area can benefit from this important program and its many health benefits.

To end, I would like to reassure the members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment that supporting the Light at Sky Tavern initiative has both immediate and long-term benefits for our University community and the community at large. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sandoval". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over the printed name.

Brian Sandoval

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager



**Washoe County School District**

425 East Ninth Street \* P.O. Box 30425 \* Reno, NV 89520-3425  
Phone (775) 348-0200 \* Fax (775) 348-0304 \* [www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)

Board of Trustees: Beth Smith, President \* Adam Mayberry, Vice President \* Joe Rodriguez, Clerk  
Jeff Church \* Diane Nicolet \* Colleen Westlake \* Alex Woodley \* Kristen McNeill, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

January 29, 2024

RE: Sky Tavern Ski Area – SUP for ski lighting during evening hours

TO: All Washoe County Board of Adjustments Board Members

Sky Tavern is a great recreational asset that serves our community. So much so, one of our own middle schools, Marce Herz, was named after one of the founders of the program. I recently learned of their plans to install lighting on their racecourse. This improvement would have a very positive impact on the students served by the Washoe County School District in a variety of ways.

Ski Tavern provides outstanding opportunities for the Northern Regional Ski Programs and specifically WCSD and our teams and clubs. WCSD currently has approximately 10 sanctioned high school teams and clubs who actively practice and compete utilizing Sky Tavern as their primary location. To do so, WCSD (and ultimately these students and staff) are forced to miss valuable classroom instructional time to participate in these activities during daylight hours only. If the course were to be illuminated allowing the programs to safely extend their time of use, it would allow these students to preserve more of their precious classroom instructional time while still participating in these valuable activities.

Within WCSD's 2023-26 new Strategic Plan, Goal #2 'Student Voice & Advocacy', will be partially measured by our students' opportunities to participate in clubs, activities, athletics, and internships. Extra-curricular engagement is deeply connected to students' attendance and academic achievement. Through this lighting enhancement, the partnership between WCSD and Sky Tavern will greatly increase our students' engagement opportunities directly impacting the District's critical mission of educating our communities students.

Sky Tavern's future goals of adding facilities, slopes and lights would surely benefit our student's ability to practice and complete for a longer duration of time during the winter season. The NIAA gave full support and approval of Sky Tavern's being the host site for all future regional and state competitions.

We appreciate the challenges and concerns with any development application but wish to voice our support for this improvement to this valuable community resource. Sky Tavern has been and will continue to be of great importance to the students in our public school district.

Sincerely,

Kristen McNeil, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent



February 7, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the formal submission separately being presented by Sky Tavern requesting the ability to install terrain lighting at their facility.

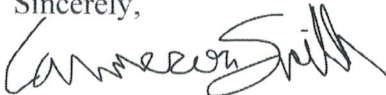
As the Head Ski Coach of the NCAA Division I Ski Team at the University of Nevada, Reno; I am a strong supporter of the use of lights at Sky Tavern.

The installation and use of lights at Sky Tavern would directly benefit our student-athletes, the university students, the Washoe County School District students, and the whole outdoor community in the Reno area. The lights would allow our NCAA Division I Ski Team more training opportunities, thus enhancing the student-athlete's experience. The same benefit would be true for the Washoe County School District after-school programs. It would allow for elementary, middle, and high school students to be able to experience snow sports while not missing valuable time in the classroom.

Sky Tavern could host adult and junior racing leagues, high school races, pro races, and community events, such as the Reno Winter Carnival. All in all, the installation and use of lights at Sky Tavern would bring another great recreational asset to the Reno area which would help build a better community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cameron Smith  
Head Ski Coach  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Legacy Hall / MS 264  
1664 N. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89557

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9th Street  
Reno, NV 89512

February 9, 2024

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

My name is Roy Tuscany, and I am the founder and CEO of High Fives Foundation. I am writing to you today regarding Sky Tavern's ability to install terrain lighting at their facility.

High Fives Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to focus on preventing life-changing injuries and provide resources and hope if they happen. We support more than 700 athletes and veterans with life-changing injuries on the road to recovery through outdoor sports and recreation, and we work on the preventative side by educating individuals of all ages on how to stay safe in the mountains.

Sky Tavern offers a range of afternoon sports opportunities that would certainly benefit from increased lighting from a safety perspective. This forward-thinking resort has also redesigned its trails and programs to be suitable for all ability and skill levels. High Fives has partnered with Sky Tavern for more than three years, creating free mountain biking opportunities for those who have historically faced barriers to access. Our programming with Sky Tavern is vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals with life-changing injuries in the Reno-Tahoe area, and these lighting enhancements will ensure the visibility of conditions and terrain is more reliable, consistent, and accessible to all throughout the seasons.

Please accept this letter in full support of Sky Tavern as they make lighting improvements and enhancements to their facilities, making them more accessible, inclusive, and safe for all users. Feel free to contact me at [roy@highfivesfoundation.com](mailto:roy@highfivesfoundation.com) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Roy Tuscany  
Founder and CEO  
High Fives Foundation

Stanley Jaeger  
4175 Bunker Point Court  
Reno, NV 89511

February 4, 2024

RE: Sky Tavern Ski Area – SUP for ski lighting during evening hours

TO: All Washoe County Board of Adjustments Board Members

Sky Tavern represents one of the greatest recreational assets and opportunities for our community. I recently learned of their plans to install modern lighting on their race-course. This improvement would have a very positive impact on the recreational opportunities in our community in the following ways:

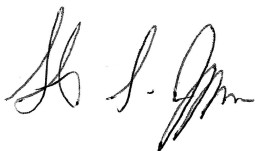
1. This fundamentally expands affordable access to winter recreation to students across Washoe County in a time when many families can no longer afford these sports.
2. WCSD student racers can now practice and race after school instead of sacrificing critical classroom time.
3. WCSD student racers gain meaningful access to a racing facility that helps them become competitive both locally and now nationally – potentially doubling or tripling their allotted practice time today.
4. Sky Tavern will become a top tier training facility on the west coast with the ability to host Division 1 college ski racing as well as become the permanent home for University of Nevada skiing.
5. Would expand the reach of the venue to include local adult race-leagues.
6. Cements our regions commitment to be atop recreational hubs in the west
7. The Sky Tavern organization is a non-profit dedicated to teaching skiing and other skills to our local youth and investing in light infrastructure gives it the ability to expand and flourish.  
Tangible related economic development benefits

I strongly believe all of these positive benefits greatly outweigh the minimal amount of impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the evenings during winter and spring (mid-winter – 5 hours of lighting; mid-spring – 2 hours of lighting).

Based on all of this, I support this project and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stanley S. Jaeger  
President, ArrowCreek HOA

February 1, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the formal submission separately being presented by Sky Tavern requesting the ability to install terrain lighting at their facility.

As one of a strong and engaged group of interested citizens, please review and consider my support for the use of Lights at Sky Tavern, a city-owned asset operated by the Sky Tavern 501c3 non-profit Sports Education Organization.

**Reasons for my support:**

- Sustainable - Lights change everything related to the organization's sustainability as the normal weekend programs reach capacity quickly. With the lights, after-school programs could satisfy this community's need for affordable and productive mountain sports programming.
- Training Support - The New University of Nevada NCAA Division 1 Alpine race team would greatly benefit from evening training that will better coordinate into their scholastic schedule.
- Constructive Activity - Washoe County High School District alpine race teams will also greatly benefit by getting participants on the hill after school instead of removing them from their regular school curriculum. There is tremendous value in after school activities for local youth since it does not interfere with their educational time, and it allows them to maintain their commitment to both school and to participate in constructive after school programming.
- Vision - Sky Tavern's Alpine Race Team aspires to create the nation's best development program. Long-term the possibility exists for participating athletes to achieve a University of Nevada scholarship or to race in the NCAA (national events) or perhaps even the Olympics! With more hill time, we train our kids towards greater academic and athletic achievements!

**The local community will benefit from night events that include, but are not limited to expanded program capacity with:**

- Adult Team Racing events
- Adaptive ski training
- High school racing
- Pro race events that would help increase the local tourism economy

**The Hill and Why Night Recreation:**

The Race Hill at Sky Tavern is a homologation-certified FIS (i.e. regulated International Ski and Snowboard Federation) race hill, making it one of the best training hills in the Tahoe region.

Training at night is better training:

- It's safer as the lighting is steady and non-changing.
- It's faster, as the surface is firm and fast, creating better race terrain conditions.
- It keeps children and University Students in school.
- Families can all be actively involved.
- And while this letter leads into early planning ideas, long-term this same project will directly benefit other important "medal" sports, such as moguls, skier cross, and snowboarding.

In short, I am sending this letter to assure you that this careful planning for Sky Tavern will allow the resort to build a comprehensive program model, further enhanced by lights, that will significantly improve the Recreational opportunities and development of our local youth and athletes. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Enthusiastically,



Kurt Mische  
1670 N Virginia St.  
Reno, NV 89503

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager

# Chris Askin

15605 Donnington Lane  
Truckee, CA 96161  
775-762-1932

Kathie Julian, District 1  
2024  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

February 8,

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

Please consider the critical need for terrain lighting at the Sky Tavern facility. The ability of the operation to serve Reno's youth at night is critical to the ability of the program to fully utilize the property and to reach as many youth as possible.

The history of recreation in our region is closely tied to the natural resources of the Sierra Mountains, with skiing being as critical as mountain biking, hiking, and other uses of these lands. Reno was an innovator in establishing the Sky Tavern property and program and this is a rare opportunity to ensure that the facility use is forward looking as our population continues to increase and as the need to provide programs like Sky Tavern to youth who cannot afford to use the pricy ski resorts.

As prior Executive Director of the Reno YMCA and as past President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada I can attest to the payoff of investments like this in our quality of life. When I was raising my own two children during their time at Hunter Lake Elementary School I was challenged to introduce them to night sports. At the time the only resorts with night skiing included Boreal Resort and Palisades at Tahoe. Nonetheless, with full-time work those two resorts were our only options to expose my kids to skiing and snowboarding and to avoid the huge crowds and higher cost of taking them on weekends.

In my correspondence with Yale Spina over the past several years I have been excited to see the work done to ensure that Sky Tavern is not only here for future generations, but that the facility receives investments that will enhance and increase it's use. My wife and I have personally financially supported these efforts.

Please support the lighting in your new master plan. The facility use during our short winter days will ensure drastically increased use and also make the entire program more economically viable and sustainable.

Thank you,

Chris Askin

**From:** Richard Keillor Richard.Keillor@cbselectre.com  
**Subject:** FW: Sky Tavern  
**Date:** February 8, 2024 at 10:44 AM  
**To:** yale Spina yale.spina@skytavern.com

---

Good morning Yale,

(see my letter below)

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I'm writing this letter in support of Sky Tavern's request for a new lighting system at the ski facility. I see nothing but a positive upgrade and I pledge my full support.

Anything that gets people outside and participating in healthy activities is great! Also, anything that helps get kids away from their computers/social media is a major win for many families.

A new lighting system would benefit many ski programs in the area and promote the outdoor lifestyle our region is known for. It will also help promote the beautiful area we are all lucky to call home.

Finally, I think the City of Reno and Washoe County are lucky to have a person like Yale Spina who has devoted so much of his time to improving Sky Tavern. He has dedicated countless hours to improving an asset that most communities would only dream of having. Government support of people and other programs like Sky Tavern is vital. When the community sees positive changes with support from local government, other individuals will feel confident to step up, get involved, and volunteer their time.

I hope you will consider approving the request for a new lighting system at Sky Tavern. Thanks for your consideration,

*Galena*  
**T I M E S**

**Richard Keillor**  
Publisher, Advertising Sales  
**775-813-7136**  
Richard.Keillor@cbselectre.com  
www.GalenaTimes.com

February 1, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

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In short, I am sending this letter to assure you that this careful planning for Sky Tavern will allow the resort to build a comprehensive program model, further enhanced by lights, that will significantly improve the Recreational opportunities and development of our local youth and athletes. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Enthusiastically,

DEANE ALBRIGHT  


Printed Name

Address

4286 MURWOOD CIRCLE RENO, NEVADA 89509

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager

Arntson Design Inc.  
Krak Arntson  
8587 White Fir St, Unit A1  
Reno NV 89523  
Ph: 775-683-3388  
Krak@ArntsonDesign.com

July 6, 2023

Yale Spina  
Sky Tavern Resort  
Reno NV 89512  
[Yale.Spina@SkyTavern.com](mailto:Yale.Spina@SkyTavern.com)  
Ph: 904-210-1816

Hi Yale

I wanted to relay to you my support and enthusiasm for the potential of nightriding at Sky Tavern. In doing so I am telling my story about the strong opportunity night skiing gave my professional ski career, and how it helped land me a spot on the US Ski Team. But first, a little about the culture where I grew up.

Growing up in the greater Seattle area, night skiing became a popular recreation. This was because there were several ski areas within a one hour drive of major population centers. Workers and students would often finish their day and zip up to the mountains for some skiing. Many resorts implemented night lights and would operate typically till 10-10:30pm. In the mid 70's it became so popular that resorts would continue operation till midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, and one resort even went 24 hours, drawing in on swing-shift workers and others that did not work the normal 9-5.

Later, adult race leagues developed, and Wednesday nights have since been an attraction for businesses and associations putting together employee race teams. Race leagues have been so popular that the mountains had to expand by adding Thursday nights for leagues. Since then, night lighting has been a favorite activity of PNW snowsports participants.

Because of proximity to population centers, night skiing (later to include snowboarding as well), developed into a steady stable recreation and activity, that has continued to be a major revenue source for resorts and access for many participants that could otherwise not get away to recreate. An attractive alternative to other night activities such as movies, music, or gaming.

For me, it would start with family, usually over the holidays when the snow had come and my dad would be off work and we would get up as soon as we could, usually a quick night ski at a close by mountain. I still fondly remember one of the first times up in December with my father, and how beautiful it was under the lights with the snow falling. Later in my life my wife and I would share these same magic moments with our children as a family night skiing.

in high school, I was a 45-minute drive from the resort. I was able to do all my classes, get in a study hall homework session, and then get up to the mountain. I would teach beginner skiing, earning some money and then train my own skills afterwards. I had a job, I made money, I had a healthy athletic activity, and I didn't have to cut any classes at school. We didn't have a lot of money at home, but the night skiing gave me the opportunity to earn enough money to afford skiing. My parents were happy.

In my senior year in high school, I was teaching weekday nights and weekends. At night on the weekends, we would train on our ski instructor skills. That year, I would pass the PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) Level III exam, the top-level credentials in the country, and as one of youngest ever to gain those Level iii creds. With those credentials I could teach skiing anywhere in the world and was licensed to start and run my own ski school or be a snowsports director for any resort in the country.

The next several years, the demand for those skills and credentials would earn me top dollar training ski instructors in the fall for resorts and ski schools. That money would end up paying my tuition at the University of Washington. Bluntly, without night skiing access, I would not have been able to achieve all that.

Taking winter quarter off, I would continue to teach and train, competing as well. Training at night gave the opportunity to ski on better quality snow along with perfect visibility. Whether clear skies, stormy or cloudy, the night lights would cut through it all providing crisp definition of the surface terrain. I was dedicated and trained hard, and my skills improved faster than I anticipated. I would eventually earn a spot on the US Ski Team, ski World Cup, travel the world, acquire podium finishes, and then ski for famous film makers like Warren Miller productions.

I hope my story can help others see the opportunity that night facilities can bring to the residents of the greater Reno area and imagine how much more revenue can be generated to support the Sky Tavern project. The additional hours that night riding brings to a resort amortizes the costs of operation over more hours while expanding participation, it's a revenue and bottom-line win.

But what about the service it brings to citizens? More opportunities to experience snowsports at lower costs for youth. Youth programs and athlete training that becomes our future Olympians. Just plain healthy fun and camaraderie for adult programs and corporate after-work programs.

With the large population base of Reno immediately at hand, the addition of an evening snowsports venue is a natural. With snowmaking coming into play now, Sky Tavern is positioned for significant increases in participation and lifestyle shift. The potential food and beverage revenue that comes with night lighting in snowsports doesn't hurt either.

I look forward to seeing Sky Tavern come into its full potential. You can count me in for guest coaching this coming season, and thank you for the valuable job you are doing to push development and participation forward.

Sincerely, Paul Krak Arntson

February 20, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of lighting at Sky Tavern. Washoe County has a very unique opportunity with night skiing due to our unique geographic location.

I am a concerned citizen who sees the benefit of night skiing/boarding and its potential positive impact on many user groups in Washoe County. With Sky Taverns proximity to a large population that is under-served for night skiing/boarding, the benefits are many.

Lights will open many new opportunities for user groups such as:

- After school programs. Students do not have to miss all-important class time and get the benefit of outdoor recreation, learning new outdoor activities, and building new relationships. Gets kids away from their phones/tablets.etc.
- High School racing and training can be done after normal school hours Students do not have to miss class to participate
- Adult night racing leagues. These are very popular in the midwest. The proliferation of adult hockey in Northern Nevada is huge. Night racing has this potential
- Allows for more students to enter a new form of recreation and competitive events. Ski/snowboard racing, freestyle, skier/boarder cross come to mind
- Allows for the UNR ski team to train without students having to miss class. Sky Tavern has an FIS ski race hill and could host night events
- Potential to expand the Adaptive Ski Program
- Allows SkyTavern to continue its vision of developing a best in nation, publicly owned, non profit ski program that develops Olympians, World Cup participants, etc in all aspects of ski and snowboard competition. Sky Tavern now has one of the best ski race coaches in the country running its race program. Imagine how much more SkyTavern could do under the lights with more participants.
- The ever popular Junior Ski program runs at capacity on weekends. Allowing lights will allow for more opportunity for more kids to participate.

Sky Tavern is a gem in North America. A publicly owned, non profit entity that is under utilized. By having lights, the full potential of our unique resource can be realized.

Respectfully

Jerry Eykelbosh



February 20, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter Grishan, District 2  
Lee Horshny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Reno, NV 89521

Re: Sky Tavern

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

We are writing in support of Sky Tavern's request to install terrain lighting for the ski slopes at their facility.

Please consider our support for the use of lights at Sky Tavern, a 501(c)(3) non-profit ski and snowboard training facility, the oldest in America.

With the installation of these lights, it will allow for skiers and snowboarders to train at night and keep students in class during normal school hours, rather than bussing them up during their school days. Families and after-school programs could also be actively involved with the night time operations.

The University of Nevada, Reno's alpine race team would also benefit from night training to minimize the disruption to their academic schedule. Washoe County's high school alpine race teams will benefit from the new terrain lighting at Sky Tavern, allowing students to participate in their training after school and remain committed to their academics.

Installing the terrain lighting at Sky Tavern will be a great addition to our athletic community at a time when keeping our youth active and outdoors is as important as ever. The physical, social and psychological benefits for these athletes will be tremendous, providing a new way to remain athletically engaged, all without impacting their academic curriculum and no longer needing to remove them from their classes to get in their training. It will also improve the recreational opportunities for the youth skiers and snowboarders in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Rich Cummins and Dr. Naomi Albertson, MD



## Nevada Chapter

INCORPORATED IN NEVADA

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

February 28, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: Support of Nightlights at Sky Tavern

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

As the president of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a Professor of Surgery at the University of Nevada Reno, I am writing in support for Sky Tavern, who is seeking an amendment to their Special Use Permit (SUP), to add lights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

Sky Tavern has multiple ski programs that benefit the community. This includes the recent use of the facilities for high school ski competitions. Currently the high school students must miss classes in the afternoon to be able to train mid-week prior to darkness and the mountain closing at 4 pm. Skiing is the only sport that this occurs with since indoor sports train in a lit gym after school and field sports currently have lights. Installing lights at Sky Tavern will allow our high school teams to train at a later hour during the week and this have less effect on education.

In addition, having lights will give greater opportunity to those high school students who might not be skiing during the weekend days at other resorts. For some this will be an introduction to the sport and others an opportunity to obtain a higher level of ability.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the early evenings during winter and early spring.

I support this project and ask favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

*Mitchell Strominger, MD*

Mitchell B. Strominger, MD  
President Nevada Chapter AAP  
Professor of Surgery, Ophthalmology and Pediatrics  
UNR School of Medicine  
Renown Medical Center  
1500 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Suite 300  
Reno, NV 89502

January 25, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

RE: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the request by Sky Tavern the ability to install lights at their facility. Sky Tavern has made a difference in the lives of many in Washoe County. As a young parent, I volunteered my time so that my son could learn to ski and enjoy the outdoors. My son went on to become a member of the Galena High School Ski Team and finished in the top ten for the high school championships. Part of the challenge, as a parent, was taking time off from work and having the ability to participate in his training and/or races. He also had an afternoon job that he had to quit in order to participate in the training regimen at Galena. With the installation of the new lights, this will expand Sky Tavern's abilities to serve more children and adults in this 24- hour town that we live in.

This expansion will provide a positive impact on recreational opportunities as we continue to diversify our economy in Washoe County. More Washoe Counties residents will have the ability to enjoy the opportunity to learn to ski, ski with family and friends, and for adults to enjoy expanded racing opportunities.

I have had the opportunity to ski at Boreal Ridge at night, and it is truly an amazing experience.

As a member of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, we are constantly looking at how to leverage the existing facilities throughout the great State of Nevada that are already available, and why reinvent the wheel now. We have a gem of a facility in Sky Tavern, let's support their efforts and expand the utilization of the facility so that more children and adults can be served.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best personal regards:



Mendy K. Elliott  
5520 Rue St Tropez  
Reno, NV 89511

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager



*NORTH VALLEYS HIGH SCHOOL  
LEARNING TODAY FOR TOMORROW*

Tomas Macaluso, Principal  
Matthew Biggins, Assistant Principal  
Ignacio Chavez, Assistant Principal  
Lisa Love, Assistant Principal  
Michelle Williams, Assistant Principal  
Travis Wilmoth, Athletic Director

Date: 3/10/24

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Board of Adjustment:

I understand that Sky Tavern is seeking an amendment to their SUP to add lights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

Sky Tavern has been training the next generation of skiers for over 70 years. The program provides a way for our community's underprivileged youth to affordably access skiing.

Sky is also a great training area for our local ski teams. Installing lights will allow for race training to run into the evening, which will greatly benefit our high school race teams.

I am the Head coach of North Valleys High School ski team who will benefit from this improvement. Being able to train after school and into the evening means students will not have to miss class to train. It also means a shorter travel time, as Sky Tavern is literally just 15 minutes up Mt. Rose Highway.

Our school is located in Golden Valley, and we are limited to training when there is light after school. Currently the traffic and distance across town means that there is a small window for our school to train in and we would benefit greatly by this change.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the evenings during winter and early spring.

I urge your support for this change and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Cooney'.

James Cooney  
Head Coach NVHS Ski Team





**BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS**<sup>®</sup>  
INVESTMENTS *for* GENERATIONS<sup>®</sup>

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Board of Adjustment:

I understand that Sky Tavern is seeking an amendment to their SUP to add lights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

Sky Tavern has been training the next generation of skiers for over 70 years. The program provides a way for our community's underprivileged youth to affordably access skiing.

Sky is also a great training area for our local ski teams. The 2023-2024 season that we just finished was nothing short of amazing given the slow start to the snow season. Sky gave the athletes one of the best seasons that I can recall. Installing lights will allow for race training to run into the evening, which will greatly benefit our high school race teams.

I am the coach of one of those ski teams who will benefit from this improvement. Being able to train after school and into the evening means students will not have to miss class in order to train and get more training time in. It also means a shorter travel time, as Sky Tavern is literally just 15 minutes up Mt. Rose Highway.

The lights would only be on during the early part of the evening, if necessary, but it would allow us to practice say until 6pm in the late fall and early winter when the days are so short. That would be huge training help because the early season training is so important to season results.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the evenings during winter and early spring.

I urge your support for this change and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

Chris Gant, CFP

Manogue High School

Assistant Ski Coach.

5370 Kietzke Ln

Suite 104

Reno, Nevada 89511

Telephone 775-300-7560

Toll Free 833-300-7560

Facsimile 775-300-7551

benjaminfedwards.com

*Member of SIPC*

*Member of FINRA*

March 7, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment

1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St

Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Board of Adjustment:

I understand that Sky Tavern is seeking an amendment to their SUP to add lights along the ski hill for night skiing.

Sky Tavern has been training the next generation of skiers for over 70 years. The program provides a way for our community's underprivileged youth to affordably access skiing.

Sky Tavern is a great training area for our local Ski Teams. Installing lights will allow for race training to run into the evening, which will greatly benefit our high school race teams.

I am the coach of one of those ski teams who will benefit from this improvement. Being able to train after school and into the evening means students will not have to miss class to train.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky, as the lighting will only occur in the evenings during winter and early spring.

I urge your support for this change and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Dennis".

John Schroeder  
1595 Westwood Drive  
Reno, NV 89509  
john.schroederNV@gmail.com

*Lights at Sky Tavern*

March 01, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Board of Adjustment:

I understand Sky Tavern is seeking an amendment to its SUP to add lights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

Sky Tavern has been training the next generation of skiers for over 70 years. The program provides a way for our community's underprivileged youth to affordably access skiing.

Sky is also a great training area for our local ski teams. Installing lights will allow for race training to run into the evening, which will greatly benefit our high school race teams.

I am a parent of one of those racers (skiing for Sky Tavern and Reno High School) who will benefit from this improvement.

The benefits of evening training are as follows...

-athletes/students will have the ability to train after school, reducing lost time in the classroom;

-similarly, athletes/students will be able to participate in some after-school activities that are currently impossible for skiers to attend: tutoring, clubs, etc.;

-a greater quantity and cross-section of athletes/students will be able to train through the increased availability/options;

-many parents with athletes/students who do not drive will benefit as they will not have to miss work to drive their children to/from the hill during the day;

-the car-pooling options should expand with evening options as more drivers are available;

-the pool of available coaches/assistants/helpers (for high school and even for Sky Tavern) will expand as training will not occur during the middle of the workday for many adults; and,

-the colder temperatures in the evening hours make for a more stable snowpack, creating better training conditions for the skiers.

I grew up in Reno and raced for the Mt Rose (Silver State Ski Team) and Reno High School teams. I remember the mad rush up the hill to maximize sunlight and beat the hill's closing time. We would frequently only be able to fit in a minimum of training runs. We also had to either miss classes or reduce our class schedules to accommodate this training. By contrast, I also did 4 years of collegiate racing while studying in the Midwest. For those college years, we trained/raced 3 times a week and only at night. It allowed me to keep a full load of coursework while maintaining a campus job. It was a lot of work, but it would've been impossible without lighting at the local ski areas.

I believe the many positive benefits significantly outweigh the minimal impact to our region's dark sky as the lighting will only occur in the evenings during winter and early spring; the lighting will be shut off at a reasonable hour, meaning plenty of hours of "dark sky" will remain.

I urge your support for this change and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

*John Schroeder*

February 26, 2024

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 E. 9th St.  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Members of the Board of Adjustment:

I understand that Sky Tavern is seeking an amendment to their SUP to add lights along the ski hill to allow for night skiing.

As residents of Reno with 2 children training at Sky Tavern, I urge you to approve this amendment. This program provides an amazing opportunity to our communities youth of all ages and financial backgrounds.

Our 7th grade son trains at Sky Tavern and attends Marce Herz Middle school. The addition of these much-needed lights would our allow our son to train without missing school.

Our freshman daughter trains at Sky Tavern with her High School ski team. The addition of these lights would allow her (as well as other Reno High Schools) to train outside of school hours. This would open opportunities for our local students to place at the top of our region and state. Perhaps Olympic level? Who wouldn't want to see Reno representing at the Olympic level again?

I urge your support for this change and ask for a favorable ruling from the Washoe County Board of Adjustments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Santos  
Jenniferasantos@gmail.com

February 1, 2024

Kathie Julian, District 1  
Peter K. Ghishan, District 2  
Lee Horishny, District 3  
Don Christensen, District 4  
Rob Pierce, District 5

Washoe County Board of Adjustment  
1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Re: SKY TAVERN

Dear Members of the Washoe County Board of Adjustment:

I am writing in support of the formal submission separately being presented by Sky Tavern requesting the ability to install terrain lighting at their facility.

As one of a strong and engaged group of interested citizens, please review and consider my support for the use of Lights at Sky Tavern, a city-owned asset operated by the Sky Tavern 501c3 non-profit Sports Education Organization.

**Reasons for my support:**

- Sustainable - Lights change everything related to the organization's sustainability as the normal weekend programs reach capacity quickly. With the lights, after-school programs could satisfy this community's need for affordable and productive mountain sports programming.
- Training Support - The New University of Nevada NCAA Division 1 Alpine race team would greatly benefit from evening training that will better coordinate into their scholastic schedule.
- Constructive Activity - Washoe County High School District alpine race teams will also greatly benefit by getting participants on the hill after school instead of removing them from their regular school curriculum. There is tremendous value in after school activities for local youth since it does not interfere with their educational time, and it allows them to maintain their commitment to both school and to participate in constructive after school programming.
- Vision - Sky Tavern's Alpine Race Team aspires to create the nation's best development program. Long-term the possibility exists for participating athletes to achieve a University of Nevada scholarship or to race in the NCAA (national events) or perhaps even the Olympics! With more hill time, we train our kids towards greater academic and athletic achievements!

**The local community will benefit from night events that include, but are not limited to expanded program capacity with:**

- Adult Team Racing events
- Adaptive ski training
- High school racing
- Pro race events that would help increase the local tourism economy

**The Hill and Why Night Recreation:**

The Race Hill at Sky Tavern is a homologation-certified FIS (i.e. regulated International Ski and Snowboard Federation) race hill, making it one of the best training hills in the Tahoe region.

Training at night is better training:

- It's safer as the lighting is steady and non-changing.
- It's faster, as the surface is firm and fast, creating better race terrain conditions.
- It keeps children and University Students in school.
- Families can all be actively involved.
- And while this letter leads into early planning ideas, long-term this same project will directly benefit other important "medal" sports, such as moguls, skier cross, and snowboarding.

In short, I am sending this letter to assure you that this careful planning for Sky Tavern will allow the resort to build a comprehensive program model, further enhanced by lights, that will significantly improve the Recreational opportunities and development of our local youth and athletes. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Enthusiastically,

Frieda Hulka, MD FACS  
494 Mildrae Lane  
Reno, Nevada 89511

Cc: Mr. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager