



Mr. Dave Spicer  
STORM-OV  
POB 278  
Beatty, Nevada 89003

September 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am providing this letter to Mr. Spicer, on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity as an indication of our support and respect for the work he and his organization are doing to address the conservation needs of the Amargosa toad.

The Center is a national environmental advocacy organization dedicated to using science, advocacy and the law to protect rare and imperiled species and their habitats. We have over 320,000 members and on-line activists to assist us in our efforts.

The Amargosa toad is one species on whose behalf the Center has intervened. In February of 2008, the Center petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") to secure protection for the toad under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). We perceived the toad was facing a number of threats, not least among them the apathy of the local community for its welfare. Over a year and a half later, the FWS determined that such a listing was not warranted at this time.

I observed that our petition did have a positive benefit for the toad – it once again united the community in seeking its conservation and protection outside of the ESA. The previously established working group was re-energized, and equally important a new organization, STORM-OV entered in to conservation effort.

STORM-OV has been able to bring the community, miners, ranchers, motorized recreation enthusiasts, and conservation organizations together to effectively work with the FWS and the Nevada Department of Wildlife in accomplishing significant on-the-ground conservation actions that have benefited the toads and resulted in an increasing population trend. Dave Spicer has been at the heart of these activities and instills a contagious enthusiasm and spirit into the conservation efforts.

I personally support STORM-OV through personal monetary donations because I believe they are making a positive difference. The Center likewise appreciates the positive results that have occurred for the benefit of the Amargosa toad. While we remain vigilant on behalf of the toad's welfare, we are encouraged by what a small organization like STORM-OV and its supporters can accomplish.

Sincerely Yours in Conservation,

Rob Mrowka  
Ecologist and Nevada Conservation Advocate