



**SLR Western Regional Meeting  
January 9, 2026  
12:30 PM MT**

McDonald Carano Offices  
Las Vegas, NV

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order – Aimee Grmoljez
- II. Minority Leader of Nevada House Legislature  
*Invited by Lindsay Knox (NV)*

The Minority Leader reported that the recent special session was difficult and described an initiative to engage high school students in health care pathways. He discussed proposed legislation to assess EV road-use fees, and UT, MT, and HI offered to send examples for EV charging station policies, flat fees, and road-user charges. He referenced the Governor's interest in ensuring equal sports opportunities across NV high schools. He further reported on energy and infrastructure challenges, noting CA refinery closures that affect NV fuel supply and could push prices to \$7–\$8 per gallon in Southern NV. Alternatives discussed included sourcing from TX, the Gulf, and UT, as well as potential pipeline development. He referenced grid constraints and rolling brownouts, occasional reliance on diesel generation, and the need to expand NV power production, along with water efficiency measures triggered by low reservoir levels. He described growth in data centers east and north of Reno and ongoing legislative discussions on energy needs. Mihoko Ito mentioned that every session is discussing energy needs, and Amazon is reportedly exploring nuclear energy options. Additionally, he noted that legislatures are struggling to keep pace with AI and policy around it.

Mihoko asked about purple state analysis working from the legislative perspective. He discussed an approach that weighs rural versus urban impacts, seeks bipartisan common ground, and avoids unnecessary legislation. The Governor set new records on vetoes the last session, but he noted that vetoes have not been overridden. He highlighted ND's 12-year term limits and the resulting need to train freshman legislators, recruit strong

candidates, and maintain a “top 5 issues” list for NV candidates. The group suggested they secure and share the link to the two-week freshman legislator orientation (with potential NCSL Zoom participation) to SLR members.

Action Items:

- Send EV fee/road-user charge bill examples to the Speaker via Lindsay (UT/MT/HI).
- Obtain and share link/details on freshman legislator training; explore NCSL participation and speaker for SLR Western region.
- Ask Lindsay for details on topical speaker sessions (hosts/format) and share best practices with Western SLR.

III. David Karlsruher - CGI

*Invited by GA Group, PC (ND)*

David discussed CGI background and national footprint. He reported that CGI competes with large firms such as Workday and Deloitte and emphasized the importance of their GR work in multiple states. He reviewed current issues, including rural transformation funding and grants, AI and governance, and data centers and infrastructure.

- Rural transformation funding: He reported that pursuing rural transformation funds is about grant application right now and GR as a door-opener is important. He recommended prioritizing meetings with agency directors (budget decision-makers) over middle management or state employees. He also cited caution with states with unlimited liability, citing a case in MS where the state tried to sue for a trillion dollars.
- AI/Governance: CGI has an interest in appointments to boards that focus on AI policy. David reported pushback concerns with AI, and concerns about verifiable results. He cited a case in MN recently where the doctor caucus wanted to make sure there would not be any analysis of coding evaluation by AI. Whereas health insurers are using data to excessively analyze with AI. The concern there is taking a study that took 6 months on knee replacement and doing in seconds with AI. There is caution about how do you say the AI output information is right and good and how do we know it is true.
- Data Centers/Infrastructure: There is high power and water demand for data centers. CGI’s preference is not to own data centers. He discussed challenges in states that have state data-localization requirements, and data security. He predicts

there will be a supreme winner for AI, and right now, they want lots of economic incentives for construction.

Follow-ups:

- Monitor/advocate on unlimited liability statutes where applicable.
- Consider adopting KPI/point-based tracking for client BD and reporting.
- Coordinate with economic development teams on incentive readiness and data-residency requirements.

IV. Peter Colussy - NextEra Energy  
*Invited by Aimee Grmoljez (MT)*

Peter reported that NextEra operates from Juno Beach, FL, and he runs GR in the West. NextEra has expanded into 48 states. This was a challenge from a government affairs perspective, but they had to avoid upsetting the independent power market and utility. He discussed several major issues at the moment, including load growth projections, supply chain, and policy constraints.

- Load growth projections have surged. Peter likened it to planning for “75 Miami’s” over roughly 15 years—creating challenges in distinguishing speculative interconnection queue holders from committed projects and in siting data centers, which often follow fiber availability. He observed that RTO/ISO dynamics vary by region (e.g., MISO versus bilateral markets). He noted that data centers require “Five nines” reliability and are turning to hybrid or behind-the-meter solutions; utilities are developing large-load tariffs to protect other ratepayers, addressing a common misconception that such growth necessarily raises all rates.
- Supply-chain and policy constraints: Peter discussed the challenge of 7–10-year lead times for gas turbines (assuming pipeline capacity), or 20–25 years for small nuclear with large-scale nuclear likely to arrive first and expiring tax credits in 2030. Other issues included polysilicon tariffs, Section 232 impacts on wind, and FAA limits on turbine obstruction-light controls. He described efforts to secure legislative pathways for nuclear and data center siting (e.g., a Google nuclear initiative in IA) and referenced an Alaska pipeline concept with costs escalating toward \$100 billion for approximately 800 miles from the Arctic to Valdez. He also noted shifting landowner and zoning dynamics toward private-property conflicts varying by state as a challenge.

V. Cartwheel Care - Seth Rau  
*Invited by Ted Popely (AK)*

Seth reported that Cartwheel is a mission-aligned, venture-backed provider of exclusively virtual, school-based behavioral health services delivered via Zoom and supported by RHTP funds. AK received \$270 million, the largest pro-rata allocation. He stated that services are in-network and typically budgeted at approximately \$10–\$12 per student per year, currently reaching about 3% of students. He explained that implementation varies by state and district (e.g., AZ, MO, CO, ID), with differing licensure reciprocity requirements and parental-consent age thresholds; the company declined a HI RFP that did not align. He highlighted hiring from Native communities to serve clients and recommended structuring 5–6-year agreements to ensure stability while avoiding deep involvement in interstate compacts. He requested introductions in AZ and encouraged outreach from NV, MT, ID, and ND.

Follow-ups:

- Connect Patrick Paul (AZ) with Seth
- Initiate outreach in NV, MT, ID, ND; explore multi-year (5–6 year) contracting opportunities.
- Confirm state-specific consent/reciprocity requirements and funding pathways.