

Washoe County, Nevada

~PROCLAMATION~

WHEREAS, Many Washoe County residents don't know about radon, yet need to know, for the safety and health of their families, as radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers; the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. EPA estimates 21,000 people in the U.S. die each year from lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure, and lung and bronchus cancer kill more people in a year than any other cancer; and

WHEREAS, Radon kills more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, choking, drowning or home fires; and

WHEREAS, Any home in Washoe County may have elevated levels of radon, even if neighboring homes do not, and living in a home with an average radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day; and

WHEREAS, Testing is the only way to know if a home has an elevated radon level, and testing is easy and inexpensive, and when identified, homes can be fixed; and

WHEREAS, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support efforts to encourage all Washoe County residents to test their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and have new homes built with radon-reducing materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim January, 2018, as

~ **National Radon Action Month** ~

Dated this 16th day of January, 2018.

Marsha Berkbigler, Chair
Washoe County Commission