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Governor Sisolak, Experts Unveiled Innovation Zones Vision on Friday

Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak discussed the State's Innovation Zone proposal on Friday afternoon.

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Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak discussed the State's Innovation Zone proposal on Friday.

During a Zoom call Friday, Sisolak said, "Nevada must look for different ways to improve, expand and – yes – diversify our economy. Government and the private sector need to collectively think outside the box to bring the innovation, the creativity, and quite frankly the investment into Nevada that we need and deserve. I believe Innovation Zones ARE that opportunity for these two worlds to work together to achieve this goal. Innovation Zones are a unique and bold idea that I understand would not be immediately received with open arms."

The proposal was first unveiled by Gov. Sisolak during his 2021 State of the State address.

Innovation Zones will create an opportunity for companies who commit to a significant investment into Nevada the ability to develop new industries in the State centered around groundbreaking technologies. Innovation Zones will be done without tax abatements or financial incentives.

The Governor was joined by Michael Brown, the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and Jeremy Aguero, principal analyst at Applied Analysis.

The Center for Biological Diversity released this statement on the Governor's proposed innovation zones legislation:

"The most important question to ask about a new city in Nevada is: where's the water going to come from? And with Blockchains we know their plans – it's a massive water grab from rural Nevada," said Patrick Donnelly, Nevada state director with the Center for Biological Diversity. "Blockchains LLC's plan is to build a 100 mile pipeline to the Black Rock Desert to drain remote aquifers important to indigenous people, endangered species and Nevada's outdoor recreation economy. Blockchains is setting the stage for a good old fashioned Nevada water war, and the Center and our allies are ready for the fight. Governor Sisolak wants to give the keys to our state to tech bros, while enabling a water grab which would destroy the environment. We oppose this outrageous corporate giveaway and we oppose the Innovation Zones legislation."