

March 11, 2008

Washoe County Board of Commissioners
1001 E. 9th Street
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for allowing citizens to comment, for the record, on Agenda Item 17 for your March 11, 2008 meeting. This item regards potential ballot advisory questions that you have been asked to place on the November 2008 general election ballot. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the perspective of the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Northern Nevada's largest business organization.

The Chamber's newly revised Legislative Policy Manual states our support for the Western Regional Water Commission. An entity made up of representatives from every part of our community is the best way to deal with our water needs. This commission was only created by the Legislature last year and needs time to study the issues and formulate a plan of action.

The Chamber also believes that using the initiative or advisory question process for this type of policy issue negates the proper role of a County Commission. Issues with such far reaching implications such as water importation must be deliberated carefully, with all views given an equal hearing. A public relations campaign based on a 200-word explanation is not the right way to make effective public policy.

Finally, the Chamber believes that water importation proposals and expenditures cannot be based solely upon potential user hook-ups. They must take into account long-term reliability for quantity and quality. We believe that you were elected to deal with these challenges and that you are very capable of dealing with them as an elected body.

Thank your for your service to our region. Please do not hesitate to contact me in regard to this or any other issue.

Sincerely,



Douglas R. Kurkul
CEO



RENO-SPARKS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE