

May 14, 2009

Governor Jim Gibbons
State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Gibbons:

As you know, SB 201 will soon reach your desk for signature. This bill would implement the RTC-5 ballot measure that 55% of Washoe County voters supported in November 2008. It would index the various fuel tax rates in Washoe County to the producer price index, which would allow our road construction dollars to keep pace with inflation.

This bill passed out of the Senate with a 20-1 vote and should soon receive a wide margin of support in the Assembly. The Chamber urges you to support this bill, which will reduce congestion on our roads, create 3,000 jobs, and stimulate Washoe County's economy. We believe that building and maintaining roads is a basic function of local government and that SB 201 assists in ensuring that our road and highway network meets the demands of our growing community. SB 201 is important to our members because they will be able to move goods and employees throughout our region in a more efficient manner and will allow them to get to work, school, and home quicker. This bill is also important for economic development. The Chamber's future members, the businesses that are looking to expand or re-locate to this state, will want to know that we have a modern, well-maintained traffic system.

While the Chamber understands your concerns about the language of the ballot question, we feel that it is important to note that the legal description of the ballot question includes all of the language as laid out in the sample ballot. By law, every registered voter in the county receives that ballot in the mail. Further, the Chamber invited the Washoe RTC to speak to our members in an open meeting. The RTC presentation made it very clear that this ballot question indexed fuel taxes to construction inflation and that it would cost the average driver \$1.10 per month and that our fuel taxes would increase approximately 2 cents per gallon per year. Our Political Action Committee Board sat down with RTC officials in order to have serious discussions about this issue. We sent out information and press releases to our members informing them about this issue. While some may claim that they did not know what they were voting for, the members of the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce and several other business organizations were well-informed.



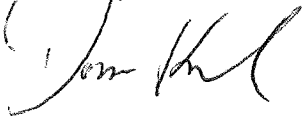
RENO-SPARKS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce takes its public advocacy role very seriously. We are always skeptical of any tax or policy that could burden our members and make it more difficult to conduct business in this state. That is why we have taken a strong stand this session in stating that we will not support any tax increase unless and until long-term spending reforms are implemented, including the recommendations of the SAGE Commission. We remain opposed to gross receipts, corporate income, and weight-distance taxes, which would devastate our ability to attract jobs to this state. While we supported the school revitalization and road funding ballot measures last year, we opposed efforts to increase sales taxes for transit and room taxes for teacher pay. These were all difficult decisions, but ones we took very seriously and ones we felt were in the best interests of the business community of the Truckee Meadows.

The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce applauded your statement that you would not stand in the way of a vote of the people. The people of Washoe County supported this effort and we urge you to allow SB 201 to become law.

Thank you for your service to this nation and this state. Please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas R. Kurkul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "K".

Douglas R. Kurkul
CEO