

March 5, 2009

Senator Bob Coffin, Chair  
Senate Committee on Taxation  
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Taxation  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4701

Dear Chairman Coffin, Chairwoman McClain, and members of the Taxation Committees:

The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Northern Nevada's largest business organization, applauds you for holding a forum in which the people of this state can present solutions to our current budgetary challenges. As some of our members are literally struggling to survive in this economic environment, it is important that this Legislature examine our current revenues before any discussion of tax increases are warranted.

You are well aware of the difficulties that have been encountered by the private sector over the last several months. Some of our members are hanging on by a thread and are doing everything they can to keep their people employed and their doors open for business. It is our position that tax increases should always be the final option and one chosen only after all current revenues are spent as efficiently as possible.

Before tax increases should even be considered, the Chamber believes that state policymakers should demonstrate substantial progress in the following areas:

- Aggressively implementing SAGE Commission recommendations to make state operations more efficient and cost-effective.
- Passing much-needed reforms to PERS and PEPB.
- Revising state laws that govern public employee labor contracts and prevailing wage laws.
- Expedited and enhanced collection of uncollected fees owed to the government.
- Implementation of a spending cap and creation of stable reserve accounts.

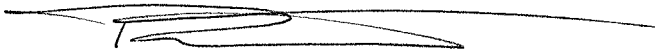
Only after substantial progress is made in implementing these much-needed reforms should additional revenues be carefully considered.

We look forward to working with this Committee and the entire Legislature on these important issues.



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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Hartmann', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ralph Hartmann  
Chair