



Nevada Association of Counties

304 South Minnesota Street

Carson, City, NV 89703

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June 29, 2012

Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties on June 22, 2012 voted unanimously to send this letter to request that you consider the critical needs of Nevada's counties as you prepare your 2013-2015 budget and not include proposals that will negatively impact the ability of county governments to serve our shared constituents. Revenue diversions, cost shifts and unfunded mandates enacted in the 25th Special Session and the 75th and 76th Regular Sessions of the Nevada Legislature have resulted in an estimated \$325 million impact to county governments. Revenues have not kept pace with these increased responsibilities. Property taxes, the largest revenue source for counties, are continuing to decline. And while the vast majority of this burden has been borne by Clark and Washoe, other counties have also been forced to respond by eliminating and reducing services. One county has raised its property tax rate in part to offset the additional costs. We are very concerned that additional cost shifts and unfunded mandates will leave some counties unable to provide mandated as well as discretionary services, and cause others to experience a severe difficulty in achieving a balanced budget.

As the elected representatives of the government closest to the people, we believe it is time for the State to address any future budget problems without shifting additional burdens to the counties. Taking more revenues from or shifting the responsibility for state services to counties is unsustainable and a disservice to our citizens.

We are hopeful you share our belief that Nevada's counties have done their part to help the State during the current economic downturn and ask that you not propose any measures that will further erode county budgets. We believe this request is fair and reasonable given our economy is beginning to show signs of improvement and state revenues are exceeding projections.

We want to affirm our commitment to work with you to do what is best for our State. However, we feel that it is time that the role our counties play in shaping our communities and serving our constituents is given due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerrie Tipton".

Jerrie Tipton, NACO President

Cc: NACO Board of Directors