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**From:** Humke, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2003 9:33 AM  
**To:** Slaughter, John  
**Cc:** Lencioni, Rita  
**Subject:** FW: SB 497

-----Original Message-----  
From: Humke, David

Sent: 5/28/2003 9:26 AM  
Subject: SB 497

Senator Raggio,

I have seen the above named bill and I do support it. I understand it provides for the Washoe County Commission to give final approval to stadium construction to facilitate the siting of a AAA minor league baseball team in Washoe County. I also understand that the funding mechanism contained in the bill involves an increase in rental car tax of 2%.

The sales and property tax projections I have seen compiled by responsible persons demonstrate that this will enhance the economic development of Washoe County very significantly for the foreseeable future. The other obvious goals will be to bring more tourists into the Northern Nevada area to stay longer and to diversify our tourist base while bringing great pleasure to our Nevada families as they enjoy the national past time.

I am informed that the other four Washoe Commissions also support the bill.

David Humke, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

From: Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commissioner  
Subject: Proposed Stadium Comments (ref. BDR 20-2003)

5/22/03

-----Support for the Enabling Legislation-----

I am supportive of this enabling legislation and the plan for a minor league baseball stadium in concept, based on the following features in the legislation as I understand it:

1. Tax and revenue sources limited strictly to the 2% rental car tax and other sources described in the draft provided to me on 5-21.
2. Actual imposition of the rental car tax, building of a stadium and establishment of a stadium authority is to be decided solely by the County Commission based on a sufficiently complete package being negotiated with all necessary parties and found sound and feasible within the specified revenues.

-----Implementation-----

Any decision I may make regarding the actual implementation of a rental car tax and the rest of this legislation will depend on my assessment of the feasibility of a total package and cannot be assured at this time because:

There is presently not enough time and information to determine the accuracy of the economic/tax benefit worksheet presented to me as of this date.

There is presently not enough time and information to determine whether the ballpark could actually be funded only through the identified sources and the rental car tax.

Be advised that if the project should turn out in my best judgment **not** to be feasible without additional County subsidy or additional new taxes (beyond what is described in the referenced. bill draft), I would most likely oppose going forward -- unless directed by a public vote to do so. By subsidy I mean some contribution from the general fund or diversion of some other pre-existing revenues. For example it may be argued that projected increased sales tax collections may justify some general fund contribution.

-----Suggestions for the Bill----- these are *suggestions*, not conditions of support

It would be best if the bill clearly provided that project should not proceed and the stadium authority should not be formed until and unless the County has determined that there will be adequate funding for the project and that it intends to levy the authorized tax. For the purpose of determining funding adequacy please make sure in the legislation that the County will have the ability to negotiate with both the City and the prospective team and to set a revenue framework under which the Stadium authority would operate.

If possible, GO backing of the revenue bonds *specific to the stadium* should be *prohibited* by the legislation so as to eliminate pressure on the Commissioners to grant such backing. Because local government is in a tenuous financial situation and because there is unavoidable risk in this project there should be no GO backing of the revenue bonds by the County

The County should not be forced to decide between competing cities for this project. The legislation should somehow discourage or prevent that situation.

There may be a real or perceived conflict with a stadium authority that has two members from a sports team with which it may have to negotiate. Remember the Raiders' argument with LA over private boxes? If possible, this real or perceived conflict should be eliminated.

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These comments are based on the limited information available and are subject to revision if significant new information becomes available. However these comments stand until/unless revised in writing. These comments are also furnished as an indication on how I would decide county level implementation issues regarding the proposed stadium if this enabling legislation is enacted. My position on this bill reflects my own views and judgment but also takes into consideration the views and values of my constituents based on the best input I could obtain since I was first informed of this legislation and asked for my comments, late on 5-20-03.

Stadium Proposal Comments 5/21/03 JJG

These comments are based on the limited information available and are subject to revision if significant new information becomes available. However these comments stand until/unless revised in writing. These comments are furnished as an indication on how I would vote on county level implementation issues regarding the proposed stadium.

There is not enough time and information to determine the accuracy of the economic/tax benefit worksheet presented to me as of this date.

There is not enough time and information to determine whether the ballpark could be funded only through an **airport and hotel** rental car tax. In addition to the rental car tax, which falls on the resident population as well as visitors, there may subsequently be a request for some subsidy or additional tax.

By subsidy I mean some contribution from the general fund or diversion of some other pre-existing revenues. For example it may be argued that projected increased sales tax collections may justify some general fund contribution. I would not support a County subsidy or new tax on the resident population without a public vote.

This project should not proceed and the stadium authority should not be formed until the County has determined that there will be adequate funding for the project and that it intends to levy the authorized tax. For the purpose of determining funding adequacy the County should have the ability to negotiate with both the City and the prospective team and to set a revenue framework under which the Stadium authority would operate

**Because local government is in a tenuous financial situation and because there is unavoidable risk in this project there should be no GO backing of the revenue bonds by the County and, if possible, this should be prohibited by the legislation.**

**This legislation should designate the location of the stadium, or at a minimum, the city in which it will be located. The County should not be forced to decide between competing cities for this project.**





## WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION

1001 E. 9th Street  
P.O. Box 11130  
Reno, Nevada 89520  
Phone (775) 328-2005  
Fax (775) 328-2037

May 23, 2003

**SENT VIA FAX**

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie  
825 Humboldt Street  
Reno, Nevada 89509-2009

Dear Assemblywoman Leslie:

I support, in concept, a plan to fund construction of a minor league professional baseball stadium through, in part, a 2% tax on rental cars in Washoe County.

I feel the new stadium project would be an important catalyst and new attraction for economic development in Northern Nevada. I also feel that it would stimulate and continue to diversify our economy. I support this enabling legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Shaw".

James M. Shaw, Vice-Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

JMS/rl

**Bruce**

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**From:** "Bonnie Weber" <bonnieweber@gbis.com>  
**To:** <wraggio@sen.state.nv.us>  
**Cc:** <breslow@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 25, 2003 10:35 PM  
**Subject:** Baseball Stadium

May 25, 2003

Senator Raggio,

Just wanted to touch bases with you to tell you that I totally support in concept, a Triple AAA Stadium being built in the Reno/Sparks area. At the moment, the logical place appears to be in the Sparks Marina vicinity, but wherever the location might be ....the idea will be a great asset to Northern Nevada.

It is my opinion, that we need to look to the future for new and creative ideas for tourism, as well as new and exciting venues for our local folks.

I support the 2% tax on rental vehicles in concept as well. I do believe that if you are going to place a tax on these rental vehicles, that all agencies would need to be taxed. We can not pick and choose airport and hotel rentals versus off site locations such as another Commissioner has requested. All rental vehicles should be taxed equally.

I look forward to being a supporter of the Baseball Stadium in Northern Nevada. If you need to reach me regarding this project, please feel free to do so.

Senator Raggio, thanks so much for asking the Washoe County Commissioner's opinion.

Sincerely,

***Bonnie Weber***

Washoe County Commissioner  
Office: 328.2006  
Home: 677.1392  
Cell: 544.9186

5/25/2003

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