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March 18, 2003

Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 3499  
Reno, NV 89505

The Honorable Bernie Anderson  
Chairman, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Nevada State Assembly  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

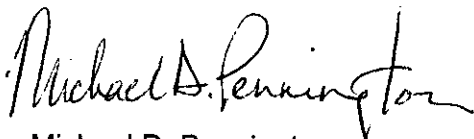
Dear Chairman Anderson:

The Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its concern over provisions of AB 96 which the Assembly Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hear on March 18, 2003. Specifically, the Chamber objects to Section 1.4, which grants a local board of health the right to impose more stringent restrictions on tobacco, use, sale, and marketing than are provided for under state law.

This provision grants such wide-reaching power over business practices and personal behavior to a non-elected body, which is directly accountable to no one. Those who wield such authority should be accountable to the electorate, as is the legislature, which currently and properly regulates tobacco-related activity. Businesses which sell tobacco or permit smoking in certain areas of their establishments would be faced with much more complex, costly, and inefficient training requirements, since they would now have to develop training programs for multiple jurisdictions. Visitors to the area would find permissible behaviors quite confusing, since regulations would vary from county to county.

We understand that many well-meaning Nevadans hope to use this legislation to further restrict tobacco use. However, we urge you to reject this attempt to insulate this important area of decision-making from public accountability. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Pennington

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY  
DATE: 3/18/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT R  
SUBMITTED BY: MICHAEL PENNINGTON