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Denise Brodsky – District E Trustee
Representing approximately 70,000 voting households in District E

Testimony Prepared for March 20th Assembly Committee on Taxation

The iNVEST Plan is the unprecedented result of 17 Nevada school district superintendents who labored over a two year period analyzing and identifying the fundamental needs of education statewide.

The mission of the superintendents is simple "To secure adequate, reliable funding for public education.

We urge you to pass a comprehensive stable tax package this legislative session. Time is critical and our dilemma is as follows:

- The district held four town hall meetings to inform the public of the issues before them and to request input for the development of the District's contingency plans.
- The District will have little information regarding the funding level until the end of the legislative session. The session ends June 2, 2003.
- The Board of Trustees will hold a budget work session on May 7, 2003, to determine the contingency budget reduction.
- The Board of Trustees must formally adopt a balanced budget the latter part of May according to current funding (no funding increase).
- A final budget based on legislative action is due 30 days before the end (June 2, 2003) of the legislative session.

If no tax increase is approved by the legislature, the following will occur:

- The District will need to cut their budget by approximately \$160 million over the biennium, as projected by the Nevada Department of Education.
- The District will need to cut approximately \$75-\$80 million of the budget effective July 1, 2003.

We cannot stress enough the urgency of passing a tax package that will bring stability to our economy and not rely on any one revenue stream.

You have a daunting task before you. I am sure you can appreciate the task we will be faced with if you do not pass a tax package this session. That task is being forced to take critical programs and services away from our public schools and will have a chilling effect on the children, our future, of this state

- The cost to restore previous operating fund reductions of \$139 million.
- The cost to fund books, supplies, equipment of \$39 million
- The cost to fund English Language Learners Programs of \$76 million
- The cost to invest in our children and the future Priceless!!

Thank you **P.E.T. – Prioritize Education Today! (District E Logo)**