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OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
February 6, 2003

Senator William Raggio, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Secretary of State 04-05 Biennial Budget; Senate Finance Committee  
Hearing; Thursday, February 6, 2003

Dear Senator Raggio:

As you are well aware, President Bush signed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 into law on October 29, 2002. This important piece of legislation dramatically affects the way elections are administered throughout the United States, and imposes many mandates upon the states' Chief Election Officials. HAVA also authorizes a total of \$3.86 billion in federal funding to assist states with implementing necessary election reforms. The authorization of these federal monies has a direct impact on our 04-05 biennial budget. Because it was required that our budget be submitted in September 2002, we were unable to include accurate information in our budget concerning the funding issues brought about by HAVA. Therefore, we respectfully request that our 04-05 biennial budget be amended as discussed herein to accommodate the mandates incorporated into HAVA.

On the immediate horizon, the Governor has authorized the budget office to bring forth a Bill Draft Request on our behalf to create a specific fund for the deposit of the initial \$5 million dollars the State is eligible for in federal funding under Title I of the Act, and an additional estimated \$20 million dollars as part of Title II of the Act. Pursuant to the Act, Nevada cannot receive federal funds unless this specific "election fund" is in place. Conversations we have had with congressional staffers indicate Congress may appropriate the first phase of federal funding as early as this week. Therefore, we would appreciate any assistance you and your committee can provide in expediting this BDR through the legislative process. Also, for fiscal year 2004, we need the Legislature to support a 5% matching general fund allocation to be set aside by the State as part of Title II of the Act.

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To accommodate this request, the \$2.5 million general fund appropriation requested in Decision Unit E-301 of our agency budget request should be amended to \$1,022,223. Finally, this Decision Unit should also be amended to provide our office with authority to receive and disburse over \$25 million federal monies over the next biennium.

We look forward to answering any questions of members of the Committee or anyone else who has questions concerning the above.

Respectfully Submitted,

DEAN HELLER  
Secretary of State

  
Renee L. Parker  
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

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