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Nevada District Attorneys Association

Noel Waters, President
885 East Musser Street #2030C
Carson City, Nevada 89701

David Roger, Vice President
P. O. Box 552212
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212

Brett Kandt, Secretary
1325 Airmotive Way, Suite 340
Reno, Nevada 89502

Ben Graham, Treasurer
P. O. Box 552212
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212

February 20, 2003

Senator Mark Amodei
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Senate
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Senator William Raggio
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Nevada State Senate
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Assemblyman Morse Arberry,
Chairman, Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Nevada State Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Senators Amodei and Raggio, and Assemblyman Arberry:

I write to you as President of the Nevada District Attorneys Association to urge the Legislature to reconsider proposed cuts in the Executive Budget to the Nevada Division of Investigations. These cuts would eliminate a total of 24 law enforcement personnel and 15 support staff from anti-drug task forces throughout the state, essentially eliminating NDI from rural Nevada except for a two-person staff in Elko. These cuts would be devastating to the collaborative efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors to combat illicit drug activity in the state.

Rural law enforcement agencies lack the resources to fill the void that will be created in NDI's absence. Not only will the cuts impact the rural communities, but the metropolitan areas as well, since NDI routinely steps in for local law enforcement in conflict cases, and federal agencies that have assisted in drug enforcement in the past are being diverted for homeland security efforts.

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D1 of 2

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS
DATE: 2/21/03 ROOM: 2134 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: Nev. D.A's Assoc.

At a meeting of our membership conducted yesterday, the Association voted to convey our grave concerns about this proposed action to you, his Excellency Kenny C. Guinn, and Director Richard Kirkland. On behalf of the Nevada District Attorneys Association, I urge the Legislature to restore funding for NDI in the Executive Budget.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noel Waters".

Noel Waters
President, Nevada District Attorneys Association
Carson City District Attorney

cc: Governor Kenny C. Guinn
Richard Kirkland, Director, Department of Public Safety