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**Office of the
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To whom it may concern:

This letter will address the Governor's reported intent to reduce State staffing levels that will impact the operations of NDI within the rural areas of the State, and in particular, the northeast Nevada area.

The Division of Investigation was initially created with the purpose and intent of assisting rural counties in the investigation of narcotics violations, and when requested, general investigation assistance. As a rural county agency, we have operated in conjunction with the State in the operation of a multi-agency task force that has been responsible for the majority of narcotics investigations within the county. This task force has depended on the funding provided through the Edward Byrne Memorial funds under the supervision and support of State NDI employees.

We are now faced with the notification of disbandment of the local NDI operation which places this task force operation in jeopardy. It is my understanding that the Edward Byrne Grant money may also be in question due to federal Home Land Security funding problems.

Due to the rural nature of Eastern Nevada, we do not have the luxury of having a large contingent of law enforcement to provide a pool of investigative staff to conduct narcotics investigations. Should the task force cease to exist, investigation, intelligence, and control of narcotics activity will basically come to a stand still. Generally, the law enforcement agencies in northeast Nevada have the capabilities to conduct most of the general investigations that arise. Occasionally, we request assistance from NDI in long term or internal investigations, but on the whole, narcotics investigations have been the major responsibility of the task forces.

I would hope that the Governor's advisory personnel review and reconsider the proposals regarding staffing of rural NDI offices and the State's continued involvement with regional task forces.

Respectfully,

Neil Harris, Sheriff



ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 2/21/03 ROOM: 2134 EXHIBIT F

SUBMITTED BY: Elko Co. Sheriff

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