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R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E., Director
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STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 24, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: John P. Comeaux, Director
Department of Administration

From: R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E., Director
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Subject: State Climatologist

On December 23, 2002 I had a conversation with Mike Nolan regarding the elimination of \$36,166 out of Budget Account 4150 that in the past has funded the State Climatologist. When reviewing our FY03 budget for possible 3% cuts and insurance coverage's, as well as preparing our FY04&05 budget, we evaluated the product that we get from the State Climatologist. Attachment A (one page, printed both sides) is a copy of what we get monthly from the State Climatologist. Attachment B (30 pages, printed both sides) is a copy of the product that we get from the National Climate Data Center (NCDC), albeit the report from NCDC is received later in time.

As discussed in my budget presentation, I felt the need to cut future funds for the State Climatologist because I don't think the product is worth the amount of money expended. I would much rather have snow survey reports informing me of how much water to expect in the coming summer than reviewing the rainfall and temperature data from the past. A great deal of the data used by the State Climatologist to produce his report is data that we (the Division of Water Resources) collect at the various precip gauges throughout the state. Also, as you can see, the report I get from the NCDC is much more comprehensive and is *free* of charge. If the University system wants to continue to fund the State Climatologist strictly from an historical perspective or for statistics, than I feel they should fund the position.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

cc: Mike Nolan, Budget Division
Lucy Zeier, DCNR Fiscal Services

EXHIBIT C Senate Committee on Finance

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