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May 9, 2003

Sen. William J. Raggio
Nevada State Senate
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Sen. Raggio:

Mr. Rick Bennett asked that I send you some information on the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies relating to his testimony on S.B. 227.

The Harry Reid Center (HRC) was established in 1981 as the research arm of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History at UNLV. The HRC has never received state funding and has been funded 100% by grants and contracts. We have an administrative infrastructure of seven people and employ about 60 scientists and technicians and about 30 students. We work closely with the colleges of Engineering and Sciences.

We currently receive about \$10,000,000 per year in grants and contracts, retaining 40% of our indirect costs and giving UNLV 60%. We do not duplicate the scientific areas represented by the DRI except for the general field of archaeology. Four of our divisions are totally different from any division found in the DRI.

The \$250,000 requested is to support a part of our administrative infrastructure, which will provide time for selective administrative staff to write proposals to obtain more grants and contracts. We would like to augment the research effort of UNLV to the best of our abilities and need the hard money support to achieve this.

Your consideration of this request is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Baepler, Ph.D.
Executive Director, HRC

DHB/leg
cc: Sen. Ray Rawson