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PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

March 5, 2003

Senator Raymond Rawson, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities  
Nevada State Legislature  
Capitol Complex, Carson City, Nevada

Subject: Testimony on SB 115, Adoption, by Regulation, of a State Plumbing Code

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Today I am testifying in regards to SB 115. The State Public Works Board (SPWB) is the sponsor of this bill and the bill's intent is to remove the adoption of a state plumbing code from the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and place it into the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). By placing the adoption within the NAC, amendments to the code can better be facilitated and the "state policy" regarding uniformity can be better implemented.

NRS 444.340 Declaration of state policy, states:

- The policy of the State of Nevada with respect to the uniformity of plumbing codes throughout the state is:
1. That uniformity is a matter of statewide interest and concern, affecting health and environmental conditions, housing costs and efficiency in private housing construction.
  2. That, by allowing local governments to waive and modify provisions of the Uniform Plumbing Code, adopted by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, based on differences in geographic and climatic conditions only upon submission of such proposed waivers and modifications to the state public works board, excessive waivers and modifications would be deterred.

Currently the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) is being used by the State Public Works Board, adopted by regulation in NAC 341.045. It has been adopted, through regulation, by the State Board of Health in NAC 444.7825 and NAC 444.56816, see attached. It has also been universally adopted by most local governments within their code adoption ordinances.

Over the past few weeks I have had numerous conversations with interested parties. I have discussed our role with local government agencies from Northern and Southern Nevada, and have had discussions with trade unions regarding the impacts that future changes in which codes we adopt will have upon them. If the SPWB is the agency to administer the plumbing code adoption process and is allowed to adopt and modify it through the regulation process, all the interested parties will have the opportunity to voice their needs and have them incorporated into the code.