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March 5, 2003

Nevada State Senate
Human Resources & Facilities Committee
Attn: Honorable Raymond Rawson, Chair

RE: Support of Senate Bill 118

Dear Chairman Rawson and Committee Members,

This letter is to express strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 118.

I am the Building & Fire Safety Director for the City of Henderson. In that capacity, I am responsible for enforcement of both building and fire codes in Henderson. In addition, I am the current chairman of the Southern Nevada Building Officials (SNBO) which consists of the building officials from 6 jurisdictions in the Las Vegas region. As local building officials, SNBO members are responsible for enforcement of the building code for other than State-owned buildings at the local level.

The local building and fire departments in the Las Vegas region have adopted and enforce the same model building and fire codes as the State Fire Marshal. Our plan checkers and inspectors are certified by the organizations that promulgate those codes and receive ongoing training on their provisions. Unfortunately, due to the current statutory requirements of NRS 455.030, the State Fire Marshal is mandated to perform the same plan reviews and construction inspections as local jurisdictions to verify compliance with the same building and fire code provisions. This mandate requires duplication of services rendered by local building and fire departments and the State Fire Marshal, and is an inefficient use of limited State resources. Passage of SB 118 would eliminate this costly duplication of plan check and inspection services.

The SNBO members believe local jurisdictions should be free to adopt those building and fire codes that best meet the needs of the local jurisdictions, regardless of the building

Nevada State Senate

Page 2

March 5, 2003

and fire codes adopted by the State Fire Marshal. Similarly, we believe the State Fire Marshal should be free to adopt those building and fire codes that best meet the needs of the State for State-owned buildings. Accordingly, we support those provisions of SB118 that would allow the both the State Fire Marshal and local jurisdictions to adopt the building and fire codes that best meet the needs of those entities.

Finally, we submit that SB118 will not result in the patchwork adoption of conflicting building and fire codes across the state. It is important to note that since 1994, in order to achieve regional uniformity, design and construction industry professional associations in southern Nevada have insisted that jurisdictions in the Las Vegas region adopt the same codes. In addition, professional associations have exerted similar influence on jurisdictions in northern Nevada. SB118 will allow jurisdictions in northern and southern Nevada to adopt the building and fire codes that best meet the needs of those regions. As a practical matter, the design and construction industry professional associations will continue to exert pressure on jurisdictions in those regions to be uniform in their code adoptions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael W. Bouse, Director
Building & Fire Safety