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Remarks of Bob Faiss
Adjunct Professor, William S. Boyd School of Law
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
In support of S. B. 134
March 21, 2003

Chairman Amodai, Senators, I am Bob Faiss of the firm of Lionel Sawyer & Collins, appearing in my capacity as Adjunct Professor of the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. My partner Tony Cabot and I, under the direction of Dean Richard Morgan, teach gaming law and policy.

One of the goals Dean Morgan set for us was not just to teach our students about gaming law and policy but also to provide the opportunity for them to influence creation of law and policy. Accordingly, one of the class assignments this school year was to identify and bring forward a necessary amendment to the Nevada Gaming Control Act. The students identified and wrote that amendment, which they are going to discuss with you this morning.

Senator Terry Care, who already had been doing his research into the area covered by the amendment, graciously had the class bill fashioned into S. B. 134 and arranged for its introduction. We thank him for making today possible.

One thing our students learn early in the year is that the primary forces shaping Nevada gaming law and policy over the years are the Nevada Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees. I want to submit my remarks for the record with a list of the student's names so that they will be a lasting part of legislative history. In addition to the witness team present, they are Kevin Bumstead, Anthony Celeste, Zachary Fritz, Edward McGaw, Nathan Miller and Shannon Okada.

We are pleased to have in support of our team as a resource witness Mark Lerner, who is a former deputy attorney general for gaming and the Senior Vice President for Law and Government and General Counsel for Alliance Gaming Corporation.

We asked Mr. Lerner to join us just in case the Committee has some general questions in the field of wide-area progressive slot machines and periodic jackpot payments that may be beyond the research conducted by our student witnesses.

Also present, although she will not appear as a witness today, is Jennifer Stallard from our class. Miss Stallard, a former law clerk for a judge of the 8th Judicial District Court, is scheduled to be our opening speaker before the Assembly Judiciary Committee should you decide to approve S. B. 134.

Our student witnesses today are examples of a new breed of law students coming to the fore in Nevada. They already are successful in another field.

The captain of our legislative team is Jeremy Aguero, who has been named to Who's Who in Southern Nevada Business and recognized as one of the Top Business People Under 40 in Las Vegas. He is a principal of Applied Analysis.

As you talk about taxes in this session, you likely are considering the product of his work as Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Tax Policy Technical Working Group. Jeremy, the principal analyst for the Task Force, is co-author of its 1,200-page report.

Our opening speaker is Douglas Walker, who holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from UNLV. He is a former adjunct professor at the UNLV College of Hotel Administration. A 21-year executive in the gaming industry, he serves as Operations Controller of the Mirage Casino Hotel. I am pleased to introduce Douglas Walker, followed by Jeremy Agüero, of the 2003 Gaming Law Policy class.