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Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

*P.O. Box 21393
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May 21, 2003

Senator Dean Rhoads – Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Nevada Legislature
Legislative Building, Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

RE: AB 41

Dear Chairman Rhoads:

AB-41 is undoubtedly the most important legislation to Nevada's sportsmen of this entire session. The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife wishes to express our strong support for creation of a "Department" of Wildlife. The Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) is a user-funded agency. Hunting and trapping are under continual attack. Serious wildlife management losses due to irrational political initiatives and weak fish and game departments have occurred in the adjacent states of California, Oregon, and Arizona. Only through a strong department and an unencumbered director can our interests be protected.

Our support is in no way a reflection on the present director of Conservation and Natural Resources. Mr. Michael Turnipseed is an avid outdoorsman and has wildlife management as a high priority. We have, however, no guarantee that future directors of a department, in which we are just another division, would share in his insight. We strongly feel that creation of a separate "Department" is mandatory to protect our interests.

The following member organizations of the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife support this position:

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno
Mule Deer Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International – No Nevada Chapter
Nevada Trapper's Association
Nevada Bowhunters
Truckee River Fly Fishermen

These sportsmen groups have tens of thousands of members. We have donated millions of dollars and tens of thousands of volunteer man-hours to the protection and enhancement of our wildlife resources. We hope you will hear our voice.

Thank you for your consideration,

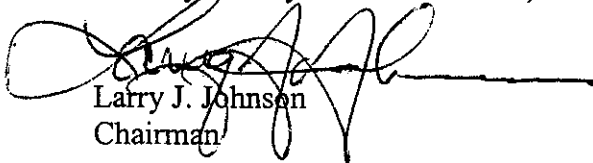

Larry J. Johnson
Chairman

EXHIBIT H Committee on Natural Resources

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*Nevada Sportsmen and Conservationists working for the
enhancement of wildlife and habitat.*