



## Office of the Governor

May 30, 2007

The Honorable William Raggio  
Senate Majority Leader  
Legislative Building  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**RE: Senate Bill 66 of the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

Dear Senator Raggio,

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Senate Bill 66, which is entitled:

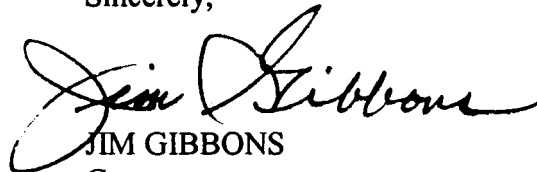
AN ACT relating to civil actions; increasing the amount of damages that may be awarded in certain tort actions brought against a governmental entity or its officers or employees; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senate Bill 66 would increase the amount of damages awardable in a tort action brought against a governmental entity from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Although the tort cap has not been increased since 1979 and some type of increase is undoubtedly appropriate, increasing the tort cap by 100% is unnecessarily burdensome and fiscally harmful to governmental entities. The harm would be particularly severe in our rural counties and municipalities, where government resources are already stretched thin. Governmental entities, if subjected to an increased tort cap, need adequate time to prepare for the absorption of the increased financial burden. Doubling the tort cap overnight does not provide a reasonable amount of time for such preparation, and could well lead to hasty attempts to raise needed revenue by unacceptable tax increases. Should the Legislature send me a bill that increases the tort cap in a less mercurial fashion, I would consider signing such a bill into law. However, Senate Bill 66 is too much, too soon.

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For all of these reasons, I hereby exercise my constitutional grant of authority and veto Senate Bill 66.

Sincerely,



JIM GIBBONS  
Governor

JG/kjc

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Barbara Buckley, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)  
The Honorable Ross Miller, Secretary of State (without enclosure)  
Claire J. Clift, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)  
Susan Furlong Reil, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)  
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)