

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-fifth Session
March 17, 2009**

The Senate Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation was called to order by Chair Michael A. Schneider at 8:16 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412E, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Michael A. Schneider, Chair
Senator Maggie Carlton, Vice Chair
Senator John J. Lee
Senator Randolph Townsend
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Dennis Nolan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Shirley A. Breeden (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Mike McGinness, Central Nevada Senatorial District

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Young, Committee Policy Analyst
Sandra Hudgens, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Edgar J. Roberts, Director, Department of Motor Vehicles
Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau
Tom Roberts, Lieutenant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

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Paul Enos, CEO, Nevada Motor Transport Association

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

You will find a handout from Julia Curtis, Director of Business Strategy and Government Relations with Sharp Electronics on a PowerPoint presentation she did last week on behalf of the Solar Alliance ([Exhibit C](#), original is on file in the Research Library). There is an announcement on an energy seminar at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) ([Exhibit D](#)) for small businesses on energy-efficiency options and alternative energy. It is available via interactive video at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offices (UNCE), sponsored by the Management Assistance Partnership; U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency; UNR College of Agriculture Biotechnology and Natural Resources and UNCE. Each of the presentations will inform small businesses on their energy options. There is another article about the "feed-in tariff" ([Exhibit E](#)) discussed by Julia Curtis in the meeting of the Senate Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation on March 13, 2009. The article explains how solar power is encouraged in Europe. The United States is just beginning to encourage solar use. There is a Public Utilities Commission of Nevada handout on transmission ([Exhibit F](#)). It includes maps showing power lines on transmission projects coming through the State from Las Vegas to Idaho. There is a picture of a Cansolair heating system made with reused aluminum cans ([Exhibit G](#)). By putting the cans together, the heat circulates through them, then a little fan circulates the heat throughout your house. It looks like a solar panel. It is cheap and works very well. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, I have an article called, *Irish Firm Claims World's Most Efficient Solar Hot Water Panel* ([Exhibit H](#)). If the Irish can heat water in Ireland when the sun only shines every 3 days, we should be able to do it in the desert. The Irish article claims the new panel can operate with 131 percent more efficiency in the morning and evening hours and 76 percent more efficiency in midday than standard models. The article from the Irish firm states it has over 400 inquiries from the United States alone since releasing its new specifications in January.

NV Energy's stock went up the other day ([Exhibit I](#)). The work we do in Committee, like Senate Bill (S.B.) 188, with renewable energy is encouraging to new technology like solar hot water and air heaters.

SENATE BILL 188: Establishes the Solar Hot Water Heating Systems Demonstration Program. (BDR 58-379)

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 199.

SENATE BILL 199: Revises provisions governing the weighing of farm vehicles for purposes of vehicle registration. (BDR 43-987)

SENATOR MIKE MCGINNESS (Central Nevada Senatorial District):

Farmers have to go to a public weighmaster to get their trucks registered. Assemblyman Ed Goedhart from Amargosa indicated he had to take his trucks into Las Vegas, costing him a day's pay. This bill will allow the farm vehicles to be weighed on a state-certified scale. It will save the farmers a lot of time and mileage.

EDGAR J. ROBERTS (Director, Department of Motor Vehicles):

We are in support of S.B. 199. We have worked with several people on this bill regarding the issues and the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) policy regarding farm vehicles.

DOUG BUSSELMAN (Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau):

You have a letter from one of our Farm Bureau members who has been interested in this issue ([Exhibit J](#)). They live in the central part of the state and have to travel several miles to register their vehicles at a public weighmaster. This has been an issue for our members for several years. We believe a certified scale will reduce the number of miles traveled from the different remote locations throughout Nevada to a public weight scale. We support this bill.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

The hearing on S.B. 144 is postponed. Sheriff Gillespie is out of town.

SENATE BILL 144: Enacts provisions governing public safety bomb squads. (BDR 42-909)

TOM ROBERTS (Lieutenant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):

He is in Washington, D.C., testifying in front of a federal Homeland Security Committee.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

The Sheriff said he would like to be here on March 25, 2009, with the two fire chiefs. He will give a positive report.

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MR. T. ROBERTS:

We are here in case you have any questions on the progress.

PAUL ENOS (CEO, Nevada Motor Transport Association):

We have had issues with people traveling from all rural parts of the state to have their vehicles weighed. They would have to take entire fleets 200 miles out of the way to be weighed. Many ranchers and farmers have scales that are certified by the public weighmaster. They must be accurate for their commodities. This is a good bill. They can take the printout to the DMV. It saves fuel, emissions and creates a convenience for rural folks.

SENATOR LEE:

What is a farm vehicle? The ranchers and farmers are getting this opportunity. What if there is a small construction company with a backhoe and a couple of other pieces of equipment?

MR. ENOS:

This bill is for those vehicles that have the farm and ranch tax exemption.

SENATOR LEE:

People in another trade would have the same problem. Why can we not include everyone with the same problem as the rancher and farmer? Why can they not go to the same scale?

MR. E. ROBERTS:

The farmer and rancher are the only ones with this exemption and must weigh their vehicles once a year. Commercial vehicles do not have that exemption and are not required to weigh their vehicles every year.

SENATOR LEE:

Would they have to weigh their trucks? I know there is not a license plate on a backhoe.

MR. E. ROBERTS:

We weigh the trucks at the time of registration. We already have the weight when the registration is renewed.

SENATOR LEE:

So there is no hardship?

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MR. E. ROBERTS:
There is no hardship.

SENATOR CARLTON:
There is nothing in this bill prohibiting the scale owner from charging a fee.

MR. E. ROBERTS:
No, there is nothing in the bill regarding a fee, and they could charge a fee.

CHAIR SCHNEIDER:
Farmers usually cooperate with one another. I will close the hearing on S.B. 199.

SENATOR NOLAN MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 199.

SENATOR TOWNSEND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR SCHNEIDER:

There being no further business, the Senate Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation is adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Sandra Hudgens,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Michael A. Schneider, Chair

DATE: _____