

THE EIGHTY-SIXTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), May 02, 2023

Senate called to order at 11:20 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Peggy Locke.

From the Book of Isaiah 41:10:

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we give You praise. We are thankful that You are with us and promise never to leave us nor forsake us. You have not given to us a spirit of fear and timidity but of power, love and sound mind.

In these days, we ask for Your grace, wisdom and understanding. We invite Your presence to guide and direct our steps. Guard our hearts and our thoughts as we work together for the people of our great "battle born" State of Nevada.

Give strength and endurance to those who are weary. You are our help in times of trouble.

Bless our families and friends at home and our coworkers here at the Legislature. We also pray for Your protection for those who courageously serve in harm's way.

You are our hiding place, and under the shadow of Your wings, we can always find refuge.

Now, may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

In Jesus' Name,

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the following persons be accepted as accredited press representatives, and that they be allowed the use of appropriate media facilities: ASIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Mia Nakamura, Nicholas Tanuredjo, Nouthdaraserey Khim.

Motion carried.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the Senate take a brief recess.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:23 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 11:27 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 452—AN ACT relating to governmental financial administration; revising provisions governing the allocation of a portion of the proceeds of the basic governmental services tax; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 450.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that Senate Bill No. 450 be taken from the General File and re-referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Remarks by Senator Cannizzaro.

I want to welcome everybody today to the Legislature. It's a great pleasure to have so many folks with us for Alumni Day. We were not able to hold this celebration during the 2021 session due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as I look around the chamber right now, I honestly cannot express how happy it makes me that we can all be here together to celebrate and to acknowledge all of our former colleagues of this particular body. It's really great to have everyone here with us today. So many of you have served our State with such great distinction. And so we welcome you back to the Senate Chambers. And I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks for everyone appearing and joining us today.

So as many of you may know, traditionally we welcome back former Legislators each session to recognize the significant contributions made by these fine men and women from sessions in the past. This is also a time for us to reflect and honor Legislators who have recently passed away and who are no longer with us.

Because we are a citizen Legislature, many of these former lawmakers served at a tremendous personal sacrifice to their careers and their families. And again, I just want to say thank you for everything that you have done and for those sacrifices. You did so for the greater good and in service to our fellow Nevadans, and it is this selfless contribution to our State that we recognize here today. We have a very brief slideshow to recognize former Senators from the past two interims as we were unable to hold an in memoriam tribute last session. And so if you will please indulge me for a moment, we would like to honor those who have left us.

[Slideshow]

In addition to recognizing so many of those wonderful Legislators that we have lost, we also want to, of course, recognize the tremendous service that everyone who is here with us today have done. And Alumni Day offers us an opportunity not only to reflect on all of that but also for some of our newer members to get a chance to meet and speak with former Legislators and learn from all of those who have really helped shape Nevada into the state that it is today. And so I urge everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to get to meet and greet everyone you see here on the floor with us today and those who are joining us across the hall as well.

Again, just want to take a moment to recognize and thank the former Legislators who have come to be with us here today. Your service to our great State will always be revered by this body and the people of Nevada. Please take the time to enjoy this very well-deserved day. And again, just a huge thank you for all of your service.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 12:01 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:03 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywoman Torres and Assemblyman McArthur were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman Torres invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Representative Dina Titus.

Mr. President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 5:03 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:08 p.m.

Speaker Yeager presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Hansen, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblywoman Hansen, who was excused.

Speaker Yeager appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Harris and Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod to wait upon the Honorable United States Representative Dina Titus and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

Representative Titus delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Madam Leader, honored guests and fellow Legislators. It is very nice to be here; thank you for giving me your time tonight. I always feel a little nostalgic when I come back in this building, but it is very different now. I had to go through about three different doors and security. Before, anybody could walk in. It did not matter. In fact, when I was here, we had somebody who claimed to be from outer space who hung around a lot. Things have changed quite a bit. As I look around this room, I see so many new faces, people that I do not know, people who I would like to get to know. The fact is, only three of you were here when I served in the Legislature, and that was Senators Seevers Gansert, Ohrenschall and Goicoechea; they were all in the Assembly. The rest of you are new to this. That is what term limits can do. Thank you for being here. Someone who is still here who was here when I was here is the wonderful Brenda Erdoes. I do not know what we would do without her. The lobby corps have certainly changed. Interestingly though, the faces are younger, but the names are the same. You have Nicky Vassiliadis, Erin McMullen, Bob and Henry Ernault, Tommy Ferraro, Jesse Wadhams, Sev Carlson, Chase Whittemore, Will Adler and John Sande V. I know all these people's families, so I feel at home there.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. Indeed, that is the case. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Look at the agenda you have. Some of these things we have been dealing with in this State for a long time. Stopping Yucca Mountain, paying our teachers more and funding mental health are three examples.

In 1990, we passed Question 7 to enshrine *Roe v. Wade* in legislation. Now, in response to the Dobbs decision, you are trying to put protection of woman's health care in the Constitution. Thank you, Leader Cannizzaro.

In 1997, I had a bill called Ring Around the Valley. They called it Ring Around the Collar, Ring Around the Rosey, they put a picture of me on the cover of a magazine with a noose around my neck. Nonetheless, the bill was about sustainable growth. Today, you are still dealing with the issues of the consequences of growth, especially in relation to our declining water supply. As a founding member of the Colorado River State Caucus, I look forward to working with you on this critical issue. Thank you, Assemblyman Watts.

In 2005, I chaired an interim disability committee to bring the State into compliance with the Olmstead Act, and now, you all are working on a disability bill of rights. Even the witness for this, who has testified so compellingly, is the same who helped me—that is the amazing Santa Perez. I give a shout-out to her, whether she's here or not. What an incredible person she is.

We had a fight the whole time I was here for funding for the Wild Horse and Burro Commission, and now you are pushing to make the iconic wild mustang the state horse. Thank you, Senator Pazina. Go for it.

Under the leadership of Senator David Parks in 1999, we passed the first LGBT protections in Nevada. Just this past November, our State voted on a sweeping Equal Rights Amendment to the Nevada Constitution that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Thank you, Senator Spearman.

We have a lot in common. We have worked on a lot of the same issues. We are good partners, I do believe. One thing that is different from when I was here is that Nevada has so much federal money to invest in needed programs. In the past, Nevada was a donor state. We sent more money to Washington than we received in return. Part of that was because we were not very good at writing grant proposals, and we either refused to or weren't able to provide a state match. That is no longer true. Nevada received considerable funding from the COVID recovery bills, the infrastructure package and the Inflation Reduction Act. In short, Nevada received \$43.6 billion. That included \$2.25 billion for local governments, over \$1 billion for school districts and some \$121 million for native tribes. That was on top of the money that went directly to the unemployed and to small businesses like shuttered venues and restaurants to help them with personnel costs, utilities and rent.

I am not going to spend my short time here going over ad nauseum the details of all these bills. I am sure you will hear a lot about them from my colleagues but think about some of the things like renewable energy, water conservation, childcare and mass transit. All of that is funding coming to Nevada, not to mention the extended child tax credit, the health insurance assistance and rebates for transitioning to renewable energy. All that goes directly to the people of Nevada.

I would like to brag a little bit. I am proud of my efforts to increase Nevada's allocation overall. I fought to change the funding formulas to include unemployment as well as population. That resulted in Nevada getting an extra \$1 billion. As chair then and ranking member now of the subcommittee that oversees economic development, we were able to get special funding streams for areas hardest hit by the lack of tourism because of the pandemic. We created an undersecretary for tourism to that level. At the time we were the only country among the G20 that did not have such a position or elevate tourism to that level.

I am going to tell you, as much as I hate to, that we will never get that amount of federal funding again no matter how well we do with grants and matching. So I urge you to invest it in substantive but sustainable projects that can create major systemic change in Nevada. Do not hand it out in a piecemeal, one-off fashion because that can be popular in the short term, but in the long term, you know as well as I how hard it is to take away a benefit or stop a program that people want and like once the money runs out. And I have a feeling that there's not much of a mind to raise taxes to cover those programs here in the State. Mr. Treasurer, you are going to have to do some good investing to make this happen.

Speaking of investing, I urge you to spend these dollars now because if you look at the Republican's bill to deal with the debt ceiling, part of that provision is to claw back any unspent COVID money. So get it out the door as much as possible; we do not want to give back anything to the federal government.

There are some issues that are coming up when I go back next week that we will have to deal with through the summer. Dealing with the debt limit is certainly one of them. Addressing gun violence and immigration reform will be at the top of the list. Passing the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, the Equality Act and the Women's Health Act are important as well. All of this is going to be difficult given the politics we face right now. Our political environment is very stressed. Right now, the majority interest in the House is not on those things I just mentioned. It is on two things. One is rolling back environmental protection, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, abortion rights, labor rights and voting rights. That is the agenda.

The second half of the agenda is conducting investigations. As of now, we have investigations of January 6th, Hunter Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, Dr. Fauci, the FBI, document leaks, the going on Wuhan lab, the Afghanistan withdrawal and the weaponization of the federal government, whatever that means.

The people of Nevada, that is not what they want. They want us to get together, work together, get along and get something accomplished. We cannot let the fringe control the majority. We must put people over politics. We can do that. We did it with the passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act to increase benefits for veterans and the CHIPS Act to stimulate American manufacturing. We can work across the aisle, and I know you all do a good job of that here in Carson City.

Specifically, I will be engaged in two fronts throughout the summer in this Congress. They are both bipartisan. As co-chair of the Gaming Caucus, I will be working to raise the reportable win limit, which has not been raised since 1977, and to eliminate the handle tax, which is mostly just paid by Nevada. As a senior member of the Transportation Committee, I will continue to fight for those dollars so we can finally build an interstate between Las Vegas and Phoenix, I-11, the only two metropolitan areas that are not connected by an interstate.

And let's get that speed train. I have been on the Speed Train Commission, appointed by Bob Miller and continued by Kenny Guinn. Then Gibbons came along, and I do not think he knew it existed. He forgot I was on it or he would have thrown me off. Finally, Brightline is making a little way forward so let's hope we get that speed train.

We have come a long way since the pandemic hit. You would think that was last year, but no, it was two years, three years ago. That is how much time we have lost. We were the hardest hit in the country. We had 35 percent unemployment, the worst since the Great Depression, but now, we are the fastest recovering part of the country. Our unemployment is down. We have record gaming revenues and air traffic. The economy is definitely coming back, but we need to be sure that the recovery is sustainable and the benefits reach everyone. We need equal pay for women, we need to invest in STEM education and workforce development and we need environmental justice.

I am an optimist. If I were not, I would not be in this business. I think we can get these things done. I think we can work together and make progress. Sometimes I might get a little discouraged by the likes of Marjorie Taylor Greene or what is happening on the ground in Ukraine. That is enough to make you discouraged. When I feel that way, I stop and think about something we accomplished recently with folks from all walks of life coming together, working quietly behind the scenes for a sustained period of time and never giving up. That was the designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. This National Monument is half-a-million acres of sacred Indian lands. It has breathtaking scenery and landscapes and iconic flora and fauna. It will now be preserved and protected for posterity. Native American tribal leaders, local government officials, conservationists and progressive groups, outdoor recreationalists and the businesses they support, President Biden and Interior Secretary Haaland all joined forces to make this happen. I want to thank them for letting me help carry the baton over the finish line. It is one of my proudest moments, and I am honored to continue Nevada's legacy of protecting our public lands for future generations.

Speaking of legacies, I have heard recently that Annette Magnus has decided she is going to retire from Battle Born Progress after this session. I hate to hear that. We all owe Annette a debt of gratitude for what she has done to educate the public, successfully advocate for important causes and keep the progressive agenda at the forefront of Nevada politics. Godspeed, Annette, we'll miss you here, but I don't think you will be a stranger. Maybe you should run for office.

I want to thank you all again for your time, consideration and attention. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of Nevadans. Thank you for being away from home and in this

snow-mageddon you had this year. Thank you for your dedication and your passion. I am honored to be your colleague, and I look forward to working with you.

So let's go finish the job.

Senator Buck moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Representative Titus for her timely, able and constructive message.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Representative Titus to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblywoman Brown-May moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:30 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:34 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

There being no objections, the President and Secretary signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Cannizzaro, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Aaron Ford and the Senate Alumni.

On request of Senator Dondero Loop, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Alan Feldman.

On request of Senator Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Moises "Mo" Denis.

On request of Senator Goicoechea, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Don Gustavson.

On request of Senator Hammond, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Michael O. Malone, Jr., and Mark Ray Malone.

On request of Senator Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Carol Del Carlo and former Senator Sue Lowden.

On request of Senator Krasner, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Ernie Adler.

On request of Senator Lange, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator David Parks.

On request of Senator Scheible, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Denis Nolan.

On request of Senator Seevers Gansert, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator Barbara Cegavske.

On request of Senator Spearman, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to the Mass Liberation Project.

On request of Senator Titus, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to former Senator James Settlemeyer.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate