

February 13, 2002

Mr. Chairman, members of the panel.

My name is Ed Duffy and I am here as a concerned citizen and member of the Nevada Seniors Coalition. For the record, I have some comments regarding ACR1.

I would like to respectfully remind the panel that it should not lose sight of ACR1. The document that established this panel is seriously flawed and inaccurate.

The second whereas which states that "The growth of Nevada's population is much faster than the rate of growth of its public revenue" is an untrue statement.

At the conclusion of the first meeting, I read statistics from the Nevada State Demographers office, which show that Nevada's revenue growth has, by far, outpaced population growth during the past decade.

I'm sure that members of the panel have read the four articles written by the Review Journal regarding this topic. In the December 16th article, Nevada State Controller Kathy Augustine stated that "despite the recession and the drop in tourism resulting from 9/11, state revenues should increase by another 2% to 2.5% during the current fiscal year. Even though more money is flowing into Nevada's coffers, lawmakers in neighboring states are scrambling to make ends meet."

There is one newspaper article that the panel may not be familiar with. On December 10, 2001, USA TODAY printed an article titled "Red Ink Overtakes States' Budgets". They quoted Mr. Ray Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors Association. He said - "that the Governors Associations survey shows 43 states and Washington DC report revenue that falls below forecasts. Nevada is not one of the states with a shortfall. All of the contiguous states to Nevada - California, Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Oregon are in fiscal trouble but Nevada is not."

ACR1 was created by our legislature during a session that may have been one of the worst in Nevada history. ACR1 has provided no statistical support for its statements and is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts.

It appears to us, that our legislature is looking for a guarantee of an incoming cash flow to maintain spending habits that may not be in the best interest of the citizens.

The real solution to Nevada's alleged structural deficit would be budgetary discipline in both the lean and fat years.

We are asking this panel to do the right thing and reject ACR1 in its entirety.

Respectfully Submitted,


Edward R. Duffy