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August 27, 2004

Senator Dean Rhoads, Chairman
Legislative Committee on Public Lands
Legislative Building - Room 2135
Carson City, Nevada

Re: Work Session Item 20

Dear Senator Rhoads,

This letter is written more in support of the innovative efforts of Pershing County and the efforts of consolidating the "checkerboard" lands in Nevada than as a statement against what Senator Craig Thomas is attempting to accomplish in his bill.

The Pershing County effort seeks to ultimately end up with an equal number of acres being auctioned and becoming private after the acquisition of the NLRC lands. This process may take well in excess of the lifetime of this writer or even his children but the intent is to establish a mechanism whereby local government can secure lands over a period of time to assist in the growth and expansion of their communities as that local government dictates and not as it is dictated to.

Those of us involved in rural Nevada are also aware that often the quality of acreage as to sheer numbers of acreage can make the difference in how economic opportunity or the expansion of existing operations can best benefit and thus benefit the local economy. It is my hope that the concept of the numbers of acres will take a back seat to the reality of the quality of acreage being discussed.

Pershing County and NLRC have worked diligently to create a workable solution to the checkerboard issue and it is important that this effort being at least given the chance to succeed given the failure of all other alternatives to solve the issue.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Chairman and each of the committee members for the effort that all of you have made to tackle the very difficult and often emotional issues that come before you. Your efforts are beyond noteworthy and you are making a difference. Keep up the good work!

Thanks for the opportunity to share our thoughts over the past several months.

Respectfully,

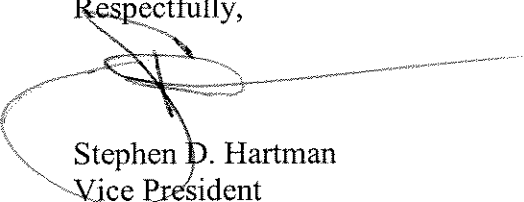

Stephen D. Hartman
Vice President

EXHIBIT <u>U</u> Lands	Document consists of <u>1</u> pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire document provided.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Due to size limitations, pages ____ through ____ provided.	
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Meeting Date <u>08/27/04</u>	