



## NEVADA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

INVESTING IN NEVADA TOGETHER

Testimony of Nevada Bankers Association  
Phyllis Gurgevich, Executive Director

Nevada Bankers Association recognizes Nevada's need for revenue. We applaud and support the Governor's education plan and our members are willing to do our industry's part in providing necessary funding and paying our fair share.

Regarding AB464, Nevada Bankers Association thanks the sponsors for the fair treatment of the banking industry. We truly appreciate being treated the same as all other business for the first time since 2003, and a proposal that taxes banks at the same rate as every other business.

Banks provide a special service to their communities. With a larger number of different banks, more consumer resources and choices are available. There is another key fact: banks don't thrive unless their clients thrive. Bank health essentially mirrors the economic health of the communities they serve; I think we'd all like a healthy thriving state economy.

Since 2003, Nevada Bankers have borne a higher tax rate on the MBT as well as paid an additional franchise tax or so called branch tax. Bankers were the sole industry burdened with this branch tax. The financial industry was the only industry burdened with a higher MBT rate. There was never an economic rationale for these taxes. The industry was not one that could bear greater burden.

During that same time period the number of state chartered banks fell from 39 to just 13 today. Operationally, banks are just like any business, struggling with the same interest in survival, working to keep employees employed, supporting our borrowers in their endeavors in critically challenging times. Nothing extraordinary, just the same as every other business. There are no easy profits; banks and their team members simply work hard just like every other business person in Nevada.

Again, we thank AB 464 sponsors for recognizing that banks are like any other business, for treating banks like every other business and for taxing banks at the same rate as every other business.

We understand that ultimately you all, our esteemed legislators, make the decisions as to which tax proposals have merit to move forward and will decide which tax plan will come out of the legislature. Our message today is the same message we have shared with the Governor: Nevada Bankers are happy to support and ready to pay our fair share in any tax plan that treats us fairly and equitably.