

March 30, 2021

Senate Committee on Education
SenEDU@sen.state.nv.us



Dear Chair Denis and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA), I would like you to consider this letter as our opposition to Senate Bill 287. SB 287 has potential implications regarding the dilution of resources, particularly risks associated with the receipt of federal funding that leaves the Nevada Cattlemen's Association in opposition of the bill.

Several concerns arise regarding the administration of two separate extension regions. The current administrative costs of Cooperative Extension are minimal because of several years of concerted effort to devote funds to programs for Nevada's citizens. Establishing a separate Cooperative Extension system at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and DRI would undoubtedly increase costs well beyond what is now required to manage a statewide Cooperative Extension.

The division of what are now statewide programs raises serious questions on how these programs function in the future. Would programs such as 4-H be divided into two separate administrative regions? If so, would these programs compete against each other for grants and other funding that may be available?

Proceeds collected from participating counties are only a portion of funding available to land grant universities. The land grant supplementary Acts of Congress, namely Hatch Act and Smith-Lever Act, have provided federal funds through USDA for the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension at the University of Nevada Reno. NRS 396.690 clearly defines how Cooperative Extension funds are to be received through USDA per the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. It states that Extension activities using funds through the Smith-Lever Act "and of Acts supplementary thereto ... and any acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto ... must be carried on in connection with the College of Agriculture of the System, in accordance with the terms and conditions expressed in such Acts of Congress." Neither UNLV nor DRI have a College of Agriculture and cannot receive and grant supplementary funds on their own per federal and state law.

SB 287 will work to dilute resources that have otherwise served as a large benefit both Southern and Northern Nevada communities, students, and residents. The proposal will very likely reduce funding available to all counties, especially those outside of Clark County. For these reasons, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association respectfully requests that SB 287 not be passed out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tom Barnes
President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association