

ASSEMBLY  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
April 29, 1977  
7:00am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Murphy  
Mr. May  
Mr. Craddock  
Mr. Jeffrey  
Mr. Mann  
Mr. Moody  
Mr. Robinson  
Mrs. Westall  
Mr. Jacobsen

GUESTS PRESENT: See attached list

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00am.

SENATE BILL 212

Senator Dodge explained to the committee that in 1973 the State Land Use Planning Agency was created and in the law the Legislature tried to recognize the local governments in the planning by forming the Local Government Advisory Act. He felt that the primary authority for area planning should be at the local level and not at the state level as is the present case. The first part of the bill contains a much needed impasse procedure. Section 5 creates authority to review federal land policies, and the last sections of the bill place land use planning at the local level. He added that Speaker Dini's bill on the same subject did not include a local authority plan. The Finance Committee saw fit not to give an appropriation now.

Assemblyman Robinson asked what type of terms the members of the new board should have. Senator Dodge said that it is not set out in that bill but he suggested two year terms. He also suggested that the bill be amended to have a period (.) after the word management on line 27 of page 2, third reprint.

Bob Warren, representing the League of Cities told the committee that he supports the bill with the amendments suggested above and that he likes the impasse procedure.

Bob Broadbent, Nevada Association of County Commissioners, told the committee that he supports the amended version of the bill.

There was no further testimony.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35

Senator Schofield told the committee that this resolution is needed because many school facilities are sitting vacant during summer and the children don't have anything to do. The people with Vocational Education asked him to sponsor the resolution. Clark County has a

pilot program for full year use on 45-15 plan for school attendance.

Assemblyman Jacobsen asked what the reactions of the administrators of the schools were to this type of full use program. The Senator replied that there were no objections since the administrators had to be there 11 months of the year anyway. He added that the teachers of this type of program were from the recreation departments.

Assemblyman May commented that this type of program was working in North Las Vegas and that there is a nominal fee charged to cover any expenses of the program.

THERE WAS NO OTHER TESTIMONY.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S.C.R. 35 - Mr. May moved to DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Jacobsen, motion passed. Mr. Mann and Mr. Moody were not present for the vote.

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SENATE BILL 400

Mr. Bob Gagnier, State of Nevada Employees' Association, testified in opposition to the bill by saying that A.B. 462 is a better bill on the same subject. He urged the committee to kill the bill.

Mr. Bob Warren, Nevada League of Cities, told the committee that he was not in support of the bill either.

THERE WAS NO TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE BILL.

SENATE BILL 435

THERE WAS NO TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE BILL.

Bob Gagnier, State of Nevada Employees' Association, told the committee that this bill would only put the job of Fire Marshall into the political arena. He urged defeat of the bill.

Fire Chief Lester Groth, testified in opposition to the bill. His remarks are attached as Exhibit 1.

Mr. Dan Quinan, Fire Marshall, testified in opposition to the bill. His remarks are attached as Exhibit 2. He added that now there is a merger going on in Clark County of the fire departments. His

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

April 29, 1977

Page Three

office is in the way as far as authority goes because the new chief in Clark County will still have to follow Mr. Quinan's rules. He said as a last resort the law should be changed not abolish the office. He gave his opinion of where the pressure was coming from in support of the bill. He said that perhaps the gaming interests were not happy with him in charge of safety regulations of buildings.

Assemblyman Mann asked if excluding the Fire Marshall's jurisdiction from Clark County and Washoe County would be detrimental to the safety of Nevada. Mr. Quinan replied that yes, it very well could be.

Assemblyman Jacobsen commented that the office of the Fire Marshall is very helpful to the rural areas.

William Brewer of the State Fire Marshall's Office disputed the charges that the Fire Marshall's office is inefficient and that it would be better under the Insurance Commissioner.

Bill Tapia, Sparks Fire Marshall, submitted his testimony which is attached as Exhibit 3. He added that the Fire Departments need the Fire Marshall's office and want it to stay in the Commerce Department. He said that the Reno Fire Marshall also opposes the bill but could not be at the meeting to express his opposition.

Bill Southand, Lyon County Fire Department, representing 7 volunteer fire departments told the committee that he would like the bill killed. He said that he could remember when the Fire Marshall was under the Insurance Commissioner in the past and said that the office was not responsive to the needs when in that department.

Jim Allision, Fallon Fire Department, told the committee how unsatisfied his department was when the Fire Marshall was under the Insurance Commissioner. He added that the problems with the advisory board are in the laws controlling the board and their function, not with the Fire Marshall. Clark and Washoe Counties still want the Fire Marshall's expertise.

Don Richard, Fire Chief of Henderson and Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board, told the committee that he needs the Fire Marshall's help. He urged defeat of the bill.

Jim Harris, President of the Nevada Fireman's Association presented a letter and written testimony which are attached as Exhibits 4 and 5. The 700 members of the organization strongly oppose the bill because it will impair life safety efforts. He added that there was not any favorable testimony given in the Senate Government Affairs committee and yet the bill was passed out.

Scott Wadsworth, Electrical Contractors Association, told the committee that safety mechanisms increase the cost of buildings and that we need a central authority to keep continuity.

THERE WAS NO TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF S.B. 435.

SENATE BILL 511

The committee discussed some amendments suggested by Dave Frank, Judicial Planning.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S.B. 511- Mr. Jacobsen moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. May, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Mann, and Mr. Jeffrey were not present for the vote.

ASSEMBLY BILL 186 - Mr. May moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE THE BILL, seconded by Mr. Jacobsen, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Mann and Mr. Jeffrey were not present for the vote.

ASSEMBLY BILL 690- Mr. Jacobsen moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE, seconded by Mr. May, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Jeffrey were not present for the vote.

ASSEMBLY BILL 154 - Mr. May moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Moody, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Robinson were not present for the vote. The amendments were to add in unoccupied housing to line 24 of page 1; delete lines 16-19 of page 6 and add "only by special session of the legislature"; reword section 3; delete lines 33-35 on page 9.

ASSEMBLY BILL 716- After a short explanation of the property involved by Mr. Del Rice, Property Management, City of Reno, Mrs. Westall moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Jacobsen, passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson was not present for the vote. The amendments are attached as Exhibit 6.

ASSEMBLY BILL 683- Mr. Jeffrey discussed his proposed amendment and moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Mann, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Moody were not present for the vote.

ASSEMBLY BILL 445 - Mr. Jacobsen moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Craddock, passed unanimously with Mr. Moody and Mr. Robinson not present for the vote.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kim Morgan, Committee Secretary

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

GUEST REGISTER

DATE: 4/29

NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NO.	REPRESENTING	TESTIFYING ON BILL NO.
FIRE CHIEF LES GROTH 111 N. CURRY ST. C.C. 882-1663	NEV. FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC. NEV. FIREMENS ASSOC.	SB <del>435</del>
CARL T. LEMONS 1205 CAPITOL HILL RENO NEV	ADVANCE CORP FIRE EQUIPMENT RENO NEV	SB 435
William Southard 114 N. Center St Yerington, NV	Lyon County City of Yerington	SB 435
William Brewer 1208 E. Robinson St. Carson	State Fire Marshals Office	SB 435
AMES C. HARRIS 2080 HECMAN WAY SPARKS NEVADA	NEVADA STATE FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	SB 435
VAL SAUNGG 53 Smidger way Sparks	EXECUTIVE OF N.N I.E.S.	SB 435
SCOTT Wadsworth SPARKS 1165 Industrial way	Elec CONT. ASSOC	SB 435
W.D. Richard 102 Joshua St Henderson Nev	Fire chief Vic Ch - Fire Marshal adv. Bd	SB-435
Nancy Gunnar	State Fire Marshal	SB 435
James H. Hession	Churchill Co F.D.	SB 435
Biel Tapia Del Rio City of Reno P.O. Box 1900 785-2215	Sparks Fire Dept City of Reno	SB 435 SB 716 1432

## NEVADA FIRE CHIEFS ASSN., INC.



April 29, 1977

TO: ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Testimony of Fire Chief Lester Groth,  
Legislative Representative, Nevada Fire  
Chiefs Association, Nevada State Firemen's  
Association, Lobbyist #77-63

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This testimony is offered to you in the most strict opposition to SB 435. Trusting that you will accept this testimony and the attached list of Fire Chiefs who are in opposition to passage of this most detrimental bill.

It took the Federal government 196 years to finally realize that fires kill 10,000 people per year and many millions of dollars of property loss cause this nation untold financial difficulties. Prior to the organization of the National Fire Protection Control Administration, we in the Fire Service, were obligated to contact our individual Senators stressing the need for such an office and until a few short years ago our pleas went unheeded.

We, in the State of Nevada, feel more fortunate in that we did have a State Fire Marshal who understood our problems and was able to relate to circumstances that cause this tremendous toll of life and property and have been able to solve many problems through the efforts of this office.

If this bill, SB 435, is allowed to pass it will set the State of Nevada and the Fire Service back many years. We will have no one that thoroughly understands our problems and may possibly be talking to insurance people rather than fire related people.

A copy of a letter that I submitted to each legislator on March 25th indicates that we feel there is room for improvement in this office and we most heartily recommend instead of abolishing this office or placing it under the

Office of the Insurance Commissioner, that the office be maintained as it is and that an interim study committee of legislators, building industry, Board of Architects and life safety officials be appointed to review the laws and make recommendations to the 1979 legislature.

I cannot stress the importance and value of this office to the smaller departments throughout the State of Nevada and I have several attachments to this testimony to indicate that it has a great deal of significance to the State of Nevada.

A petition with some 83 signatures of citizens in the Carson City area is attached to this testimony indicating that not only the Fire Service but the general public as well is very concerned and realize the importance of this office.

Departments in the State that have been contacted through their Chiefs and representatives are as follows:

Gardnerville Fire Department  
Reno Fire Department  
Douglas County Fire Department  
Fallon Fire Department  
Elko Fire Department  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District  
Kingsbury Fire Protection District  
Dayton Fire Department  
South Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Yerington Fire Department  
Lovelock Fire Department  
Wells Fire Department  
Clover Valley Fire Department  
Carlin Fire Department  
Winnemucca Fire Department  
Las Vegas Fire Department  
Members of the State Fire Chiefs Association  
Members of the Nevada Firemen's Association  
Members of the Electrical Workers and  
Electrical Contractors of Nevada  
Northern Nevada Fire Prevention and Investigators  
Committee  
Nevada State Fire Service Training Committee

It is our sincere desire to see that the State  
Fire Marshal's Office is maintained on the same level  
as it is today and it is with the greatest urgency that  
we request this committee to not allow this bill to pass.

*Chief W. L. Smith*



Chief Harry Van Meter  
Reno Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Advisory Board

Chief Darwin Ellis  
Douglas County Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Advisory Board

Chief Jim Allison  
Fallon Fire Department  
Fire Marshal's Advisory Board

Chief William Fogle  
Elko Fire Department  
President of Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Jim Harris  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District  
President, Nevada State Fireman's Association

William Tappia  
Sparks Fire Marshal  
President, Fire Prevention and Fire  
Investigators of Northern Nevada

Chief Bruce Kanoff  
South Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

Chief Jack Kissinger  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Chief Don Young  
Sparks Fire Department

Chief Wallace Martin  
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

Chief William Southard  
Yerington Fire Department

International Association of Federated Firefighters  
Reno, Sparks, Carson City area

Mr. John P. Byrne  
Business Manager  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Mr. W. Scott Wadsworth  
Manager, Northern Nevada Chapter  
National Electrical Contractors Association, Inc.



# North Las Vegas Fire Department

2626 EAST CAREY AVE., P.O. BOX 4086, (702) 649-4222, NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

FRANK D. LARSON  
FIRE CHIEF

*Chief Guth*

March 23, 1977

Mr. Dan J. Quinan  
Nevada State Fire Marshal  
Capitol Building  
505 East King Street, Room 302  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Dan:

This is a copy of a letter that I sent to every senator from the southern part of the state. I hope it will influence some of them.

Sincerely,

*Robert E. Mills*

Captain Robert E. Mills  
Fire Prevention Bureau

REM/jr

Enclosure

RECEIVED  
U.S. MAIL

MAR 25 1977

STATE OF NEVADA  
FIRE MARSHAL  
CARSON CITY, NEV.

1437



# North Las Vegas Fire Department

2626 EAST CAREY AVE., P.O. BOX 4086, (702) 649-4222, NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

FRANK D. LARSON  
FIRE CHIEF

March 23, 1977

The Honorable Norman Ty Hilbrecht  
Nevada State Senate  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Sir:

I write this letter to protest the resolution of the State Finance Committee to abolish the Nevada State Fire Marshall's Office by reassigning its duties and responsibilities to the State Insurance Commissioner's Office. I oppose for the following reasons:

1. Nevada stands to receive federal revenues for fire prevention education and training in excess of \$100,000 through the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, Public Law #93-498. The loss of the Nevada State Fire Marshall's Office would eliminate this revenue.
2. The elimination of the State Fire Marshall's Office would open the door to federal intervention on the part of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration and possibly would place fire prevention activity within the state under an OSHA type control.
3. In recent years California, Arizona, and Oregon have organized their state fire prevention activities to an exemplary quality because of the freedom of action their fire marshalls have. Yet our Nevada fire marshall has been continually restricted by pressures from special interest groups and sympathetic politicians until he has almost no authority left. Then people complain that he is doing nothing.

On February 7, 1977, an unauthorized letter from the Southern Nevada Fire Prevention Council was sent to Governor O'Callaghan and Senator Floyd Lamb without the knowledge or approval of the council members. That letter, written by only three or four persons, requested additional restrictions on the state fire marshall's authority.

**RECEIVED**  
U.S. MAIL

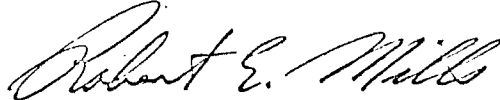
MAR 25 1977

**1438** STATE OF NEVADA  
FIRE MARSHAL  
CARSON CITY, NEV.

I am totally opposed to the trend which is gaining a firm foothold in our state and placing unrestrained and unregulated authority in the hands of the metropolitan authorities. Further reduction or the elimination of the stabilizing authority of the State Fire Marshall's Office will have a long-lasting and hazardous effect on the welfare and safety of the people who live in and visit this great state.

I urge you to consider the negative effects the abolishment of the Nevada State Fire Marshall's Office would have on this state. I ask you also to release him from the constraints that have been placed on him so he can do his job the way it should be done.

Very truly yours,



Captain Robert E. Mills  
Fire Prevention Bureau

REM/jr

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(702) 738-3211

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
(702) 738-3211

FIRE CHIEF  
W.F. "BILL" FOGLE

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF  
FRANK C. "CHUCK" MILLER  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL

723 Railroad Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

23 March 1977

The Honorable the  
Governor of Nevada  
State Capitol Building  
Governor's Office  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

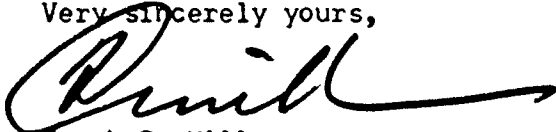
Dear Governor O'Callaghan,

Enclosed find a report submitted to the State Fire Marshal Dan Quinan, on bad practices in Elko, by a State Licensed Extinguisher Company.

For my records, please tell me who in the future, if Senator Lamb gets his way, do the small fire departments of our state call if they have problems, who do the larger departments, such as Elko, call if we have problems or complaints, who will regulate the Fire Regulations needed State wide (such as the above mentioned company), and who will be the focal point for all fire related business in the state?

The State of Nevada should look to Montana, California, or even Florida for, and pick the one that would benefit Nevada the most, and adopt their rules and regulations covering the State Fire Marshal, then every two years we in the State of Nevada would not be troubled with the problem of what to do with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Very sincerely yours,



Frank C. Miller  
City Fire Marshal

FCM/jms

PREVENT FIRES BY REMOVING ALL CAUSES

1440

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE CHIEF  
W.F. "BILL" FOGLE

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF  
FRANK C. "CHUCK" MILLER  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL

723 Railroad Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(702) 738-3211

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
(702) 738-3211

8 April 1977


Les Groth  
Fire Chief  
Carson City, Nv.

Chief Groth,

Enclosed find a copy of letters sent to the Senators.

Could you please deliver these to the boxes of the Senators before the hearing for me? I was going to mail them, but as one of our firemen was going to Carson City, I felt this would be faster.

Thank you,



Frank C. Miller  
City Fire Marshal

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE CHIEF  
W.F. "BILL" FOGLE

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF  
FRANK C. "CHUCK" MILLER  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL

723 Railroad Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(702) 738-3211

ELKO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY FIRE MARSHAL  
(702) 738-3211

8 April 1977

If the Senate removes the office of the Fire Marshal, I feel they are not looking to the best interest of the people of Nevada. The small cities, such as Carlin, Battle Mountain, Wells, Ely and Mountain City (for example), do not have paid members who are trained in Fire Protection, Fire and Arson Investigation, who need information from time to time on the few laws Nevada has on fire related matters. This is now being provided by the Fire Marshal's office. Who is going to provide this help in the future? Elko, hub of Elko County, for one can't afford this kind of service.

I don't know how you go about it, but I wish someone with an interest in fire loss, in the State Government would go to other state's that have a working Fire Marshal program, get their Rules and Regulations that govern their fire marshal, pick the best from two or three (Utah, Montana, Florida or California for examples), adapt them to usage in Nevada and make them a State Law.

Nevada has about 6 small pages on the Fire Marshal position. Montana has a Volume on their fire marshal position. He knows where he's at and what he's to do.

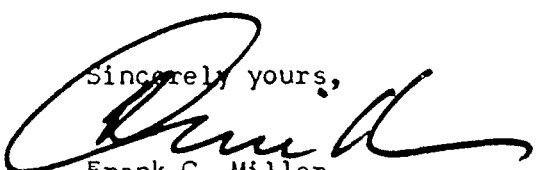
In the United States, fire apathy causes many billions of dollars and thousands of lives lost each year. Because of this apathy, Nevada needs more laws and people to enforce them, to protect it's people from themselves, not less.

There have been times that I have had to call on the Fire Marshal's office for information or advice. Who, if the office is removed, would I call on then?

Again, Nevada needs more State Laws covering fire related problems, not less, and one State Office that has control over the situation, not one Office that has many situations to control.

Please take all this into consideration, then approve or disapprove S.B. 435 as you see fit. but I, as one fireman, feel that we need the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Sincerely yours,

  
Frank C. Miller  
City Fire Marshal

cc: Senator James I. Gibson, Chairman  
Senator Margie Foote  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Mary L. Gojack  
Senator Norman Ty Hilbrecht  
Senator Jack L. Schofield  
Senator William J. Raggio

PREVENT FIRES BY REMOVING ALL CAUSES

1442

FIRE PREVENTION AND  
FIRE INVESTIGATORS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NORTHERN  
NEVADA



April 22, 1977

The Honorable  
Assembly Government  
Affairs Committee  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear

On behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention/Fire Investigators Association of Northern Nevada, I would like to go on record as opposing SB435.

There appears to be a personality clash involved and we feel the Office of the State Fire Marshal should not be used to settle personal differences.

Abolishing the Office of the State Fire Marshal from the Commerce Department and putting it in the Insurance Department cannot and will not serve any useful purpose, and will not be in the best interest for the people of the State of Nevada.

Everyone in the State, at one time or another, has utilized this office; even the larger counties that have organized paid fire departments, even though it has been on a request basis.

It is our recommendation that this office not be placed in the Insurance Department; but taken out of the Commerce Department, and placed directly under the Governor's Office.

We recommend that a Study Committee be appointed, comprised of the Legislative Branch, Building Industry, Fire Service Branch, and Life Safety Officials.

We would be most happy to volunteer our services or testify in any manner you choose.

Respectfully yours,

*W.G. Tapia*  
William G. Tapia, President  
Fire Prevention/Fire Investigators  
Association of Northern Nevada  
P. O. Box 515  
Sparks, Nevada 89431

WGT:im

File

1443





STATE OF NEVADA

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION

KINKEAD BUILDING (CAPITOL COMPLEX)  
505 EAST KING STREET, ROOM 302  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710

MICHAEL L. MELNER, DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
DAN J. QUINAN, FIRE MARSHAL  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION  
(702) 885-4290

Exhibit 2

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN  
GOVERNOR

FIRE PROTECTION SECTION  
(702) 885-4290

PUBLIC HEARING -- SENATE BILL NO. 435

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Legislative Building, Room 214  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Testimony of Dan J. Quinan, Nevada State Fire Marshal:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am appearing today to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 435. The issues behind the development of this Bill are not clear to me nor are they clear to any persons that I have contacted since the 1977 Session of the Nevada State Legislature opened in January.

The issues brought forth during the Senate Government Affairs Committee deliberations were that efficiency would be improved, and that the Insurance Division had special resources that would assist duties and functions of my office. Members of the Committee, I disagree. I feel that the real issue here is not visible. I believe that my Division is being chastised for doing its job in an efficient manner with very limited resources.

It was, also, brought out in the Senate deliberation that many fire chiefs agree that this drastic action proposed in Senate Bill 435 is agreeable to them. I state to you here today, under threat of perjury if you insist, the many fire chiefs referred to are but ~~two~~, <sup>one</sup> ~~or perhaps three~~, out of the entire state that feel that if the State Fire Marshal position remains, it may threaten their long-range plans to circumvent state minimum fire and safety regulations.

This, being a part of the issue before you, can easily be avoided by changing the law under which I function, and not by eliminating the office.

The assistance I provide in the area of the state that needs my office is summarized in the package of information before you. This is what we do. My involvement in the populated counties is minimal I can assure you, having been forced by legislative written letter of edict in 1973 to keep my "damned nose out of Clark and Washoe Counties."

You may have heard that one of the real issues here is the safety requirements imposed upon the Mizpah Hotel (Tonopah) by my office. If you have read the newspapers recently you may recall a hotel in Texas being gutted by fire and occupants leaping to their deaths like flaming torches. Does Nevada need these kinds of headlines? If my office had not been requested by the Fire

Chief to assist him in enforcement, the Mizpah Hotel could well be a headline story.

It may be well to mention here and now that my every action regarding the Mizpah Hotel was thoroughly reviewed, and approved, by the Department of Commerce.

Senate Bill 435 infers that I need a choke chain to restrain my efforts to improve fire and life safety. Let's look at some of the accomplishments my small Division has made with its present structure:

The accomplishments made by the Nevada State Fire Marshal's office over the past twelve years in fire protection and life safety are, today, the envy of many states--and this is a matter of record. To go into each and every facet of our work would take more time than you have for consideration of one piece of legislation, therefore, in the interest of brevity, I'll name but a few.

Nevada was one of the first states to be certified by HEW for fire and life safety requirements in health care facilities. Nevada forced the Federal Government to acknowledge the danger of polyurethane insulation. Nevada was first to develop and regulate voice alarm systems for high rise buildings. Nevada's fire extinguisher agency regulations have been copied by Texas, Alaska and Arizona. Nevada gained nationwide recognition in banning polyurethane mattresses from institutional occupancies. The tests that were conducted with the cooperation of the Sparks Fire Department are now being used by the manufacturers themselves in determining flammability. Nevada's mobile home construction standards exceeded all other states in improving safety from fire. The list goes on and on.

These accomplishments were made because this legislature and the Nevada fire services recognized that the safety of its citizens and visitors deserved the best protection based upon reason. Our entire enforcement policy is based upon reason. The dollars spent to support the State Fire Marshal's office are returned in the form of savings in lives and construction costs.

Each time our office reviews a set of building plans we are aware of cost. When a set of plans are approved for a school, state building, or medical facility, we often save thousands of dollars in construction cost by varying unnecessary requirements and accepting alternate methods to achieve safety. We do this with a minimum of cost in staff and operating funds.

It is difficult to measure all of this unless you review our safety record. Not one school fire of any magnitude; not one life lost in a resort hotel or gaming establishment in view of the millions of visitors over the past decade. Our state library, museum, capitol, and this building you are in today, came under close scrutiny by our office.

Members of this Committee, we deal with the people, architects, engineers, contractors, fire chiefs, fire inspectors, police and fire investigators fire safety, appliance people who manufacture, install and service fire protection and safety equipment.

Senate Bill 435 intends to turn the clock back to eliminate the State Fire Marshal and to be vacuumed up into the Insurance Division without identity, or purpose! It intends to place the Law NRS 477 in control of the Commissioner of Insurance. For seven years (1965 to 1972) the State Fire Marshal was stagnated under this same arrangement. Every decision, and move, had to be viewed for its political effect. Safety took a back seat until the fire service demanded a change. In 1973, the Commissioner of Insurance consented to let our office function as a separate Division and the legislature agreed. From 1973, until today, all of the accomplishments heretofore mentioned were made possible.

I am aware of the problems involved in my work. I live in Nevada. My solution to all of this controversy is to research and change the law and not abolish the office to where our every effort to improve life safety and fire protection may be based on outside interest and political considerations.

I look upon our efforts as assistance to local effort and in almost every case, with few exceptions, we are able to help solve their problems without resistance or fanfare. Now and then we do find ourselves faced with obstacles such as the Elko Hospital or the Hotel Mizpah. In every contested action we have resolved the problem without sacrificing safety or going to court. Reasonable men can resolve differences, and we hold no antagonism against anyone for arguing their case against ours.

Members of the Committee, it takes time to make changes and apply new methods. Nevada is hoping to be part of a nationwide effort to reduce the loss of life and property from fire. Nevada citizens deserve to reap the benefits of research and development and to learn how to live safely in our combustible environment.

I have been asked by the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to head this effort in Nevada in exchange for financial assistance to any recognized programs we can develop. With this statement you are in possession of our rural survey of volunteer fire departments. Can you, in good conscience, ignore the benefits our small agency is doing and is capable of doing?

In conclusion, may I respectfully suggest that this Committee assign a study of the State Fire Marshal's duties and responsibilities with the view of improving our Statute NRS 477, and in so doing eliminate the uncertainty and conflict that appears in every Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today and thank you for your indulgence and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dan J. Quinan  
Nevada State Fire Marshal

DJQ:kr

## REPORT OF THE NEVADA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

During the preceeding two years, the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division has divided its activities and efforts into four separate and diversified fields:

1. Fire protection and life safety.
2. Mobile home and manufactured building standards enforcement.
3. Travel trailer manufacturing standards enforcement.
4. Mobile home dealer and salesmen licensing.

### Fire Protection Section:

The Fire Protection Section is presently operating with one deputy, as it has for the past four years, and with this staffing limitation, this Section has become reactive instead of active. In almost every assignment this Section is behind in its commitments and schedules.

In 1975, the Legislature responded to alleviate the workload by funding one-third of a position "Life Safety Code Specialist" to inspect Nevada's health facilities and train its people to respond to fire emergencies. Two-thirds of this vital position is funded by Federal funds through a contract between our Division and the State Health Department. This arrangement gives control of this position to the Health Department in meeting their timetable, and gives our Division the responsibility in the decision making process. From a management and planning standpoint, this arrangement is very undesirable. Also, in the 1975 Session of the Nevada State Legislature, funds were cut in the approved general appropriations budget forcing my Division to transfer a deputy from the general appropriations budget (3816) into the mobile home and travel trailer budget (3814) which, by statute, cannot be used for any purpose except the Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Program.

With the concurrence of the State Fire Marshal's Advisory Board, I have submitted a budget request, 1977-1979, to transfer this deputy back to the Fire Protection Section. I have, also, requested that the Life Safety Code Specialist become a full-time position in my budget (3816) under my full supervision and control, along with a full-time Registration Clerk/Typist to handle our expanded clerical needs.

Various methods have been used to sustain equality of effort in balancing our various functions. The result has been that our projected programs in fire protection has suffered from the lack of staffing and time to complete these programs. Recognizing that a system of priority was needed in our Fire Protection Section, we set up goals to accomplish four major assignments:

1. Arson Investigation.
2. Approval of State building projects.
3. Health facility inspection and training.
4. Fire extinguisher agency licensing program.

Following is a breakdown of our activities in the Fire Protection Section during the last biennial:

Number of Plans Checked (includes preliminary & final drawings)

<u>Project</u>	<u>July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975</u>	<u>July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976</u>
Schools	24	45
Health Facilities	26	18
State Office Buildings	6	17
Fire Protection Systems	8	11
University	9	10
Community College	4	1
State Prison	2	3
Fish and Game		4
Highway Department	2	2
Resort Hotels	1	1
State Parks	1	
County Buildings(Law enforcement, libraries, etc.)	1	1
Girls Training Center, Caliente		1
State Museum		1
N.Y.T.C.		3
Nevada State Childrens Home		1
Other		1
	84	120

COMBINED TOTAL 204

Number of Fires Investigated

July 1, 1974  
to  
June 30, 1975

18

July 1, 1975  
to  
June 30, 1976

25

TOTAL COMBINED INVESTIGATIONS 43

Fires Determined to be of Incendiary Origin

July 1, 1974  
to  
June 30, 1976

7

July 1, 1975  
to  
June 30, 1976

13

COMBINED TOTAL 20

Court Appearances and Depositions

July 1, 1974  
to  
June 30, 1975

1

July 1, 1975  
to  
June 30, 1976

2

COMBINED TOTAL 3

Regulations Written and/or Amended

July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975

Adoption of U.B.C. 1973 Edition  
Adoption of Child Care Regulations  
Proposed Arson Regulations (not adopted)

July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976

Proposed Fireworks Regulations (not adopted)  
Adoption of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Regulations

Fire Extinguisher and Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems Licensing Program

	July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975	July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976
Written examinations given	21	29
Certificate of Registration Renewals	89	95
New Firms Licensed	2	5
Firm Renewals	19	18

Revenues

Written examinations	\$ 525.00	\$ 700.00
Certificate of Registration	1,335.00	1,425.00
New Firms Licensed	350.00	800.00
Firm Renewals	3,350.00	3,200.00
Penalties for Certificate of Registration	30.00	45.00
Penalties for Firm License		100.00
Duplicates	4.00	4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,594.00</b>	<b>\$6,274.00</b>

Complaints Investigated and Hearings Conducted

Complaints Investigated	17	12
Formal Hearings held before Fire Marshal Advisory Board	1	1
Informal office Hearings	2	
Licenses revoked	1	

Seminars and Special Classes Attended

July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975

High Rise Building Seminar, Boston Massachusetts	12/3/74-12/6/74
Fire Protection Systems Class, Reno, Nevada	3/10/74

July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976

Northwest Fire and Arson Seminar, Eugene, Oregon	5/3/76-5/7/76
Bomb and Explosives School, Reno, Nevada	6/7/76-6/10/76



Building Inspections (Does not include Life Safety Code Specialist Activities)

	July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975	July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976
State	7	9
Schools	2	5
Health Facilities	7	4
Public	3	2
	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 20

COMBINED TOTAL 39

Fire Protection Equipment Approvals

5 6

Special Meetings with State and Local Agencies

July 1, 1974 to June 30 1976

Architects	6
Public Works Board	15
Health Division	8
Fire Departments	<hr/> 20
TOTAL	49

Life Safety Code Specialist Activities

July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1976

In-service fire safety training for Health Facilities	18
Plans Checked--Health Facilities Building Construction	10
<u>Inspections and Follow-ups</u>	
Convalescent Centers & Hospitals	97
Adult Group Care	23
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Centers	15
Child Care Facilities	64
Retirement Homes	2
State Mental Health	<hr/> 10

TOTAL 239

In addition to health services, the Life Safety Code Specialist administered 5 written examinations for Fire Extinguisher servicemen.

THE FIRE PICTURE  
IN  
RURAL NEVADA'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Dan J. Quinan  
Nevada State Fire Marshal  
1977

Nevada State Fire Marshals Survey Report  
of  
Nevada Volunteer Fire Departments  
November 1976 - February 1977

The State Fire Marshal's Office recently completed a statewide survey of Nevada Volunteer Fire Departments. The survey included visiting seventy-three (73) departments and contacting fifty (50) volunteer fire chiefs. The survey time involved seventeen (17) working days and a total travel distance of 6,426 miles. Some departments could not be reached because of the conditions of roads (snow and mud) which our 1968 Chevrolet sedan could not negotiate. Attempts will be made after the 1977 Session of the Nevada State Legislature to contact these departments and complete the survey. From information gathered in contacts that were made with the fire chiefs, and from the observations and discussions with volunteer firemen and citizens, we collected enough data to make this report comprehensive.

In order for this report to stand out as meaningful, and not appear as a long-winded narrative, the contents will be broken down into subtitles or paragraphs into categories. No individual department will be singled out, although reference may be made to certain counties and/or fire districts. The categories will be broken down into the following groups: (1) equipment; (2) manpower; (3) community interest; (4) protection of hazards; (5) fire investigation; (6) fire prevention activities; (7) training; (8) overall summary.

EQUIPMENT:

Condition of equipment, age, and functional capability depends entirely upon the interest of the community in fire protection. The equipment we observed ranged from very poor, obsolete, and inoperable to good, very good, and excellent. It is obvious that were it not for the Clerk-McNary Act of 1924 (administered through the State Forestry Fire Warden) many communities would be in the leather bucket brigade era. Much of the U.S. surplus equipment, modified and put into service by the State Division of Forestry, is not maintained, is dirty, and in questionable condition. The condition of hose, hosereels, and hard-line in some cases, has been in service and not replaced since the 1950's. Nozzles are outdated and not properly distributed as to their maximum fire fighting criteria for efficiency by design. On the plus side, some community improvement is obvious and, again, through Title IV of the Rural Development Act of 1972, funds on a matching basis through the State Division of Forestry can be identified, in Nye County especially. Very good equipment for three departments plus three new fire houses are nearly completed.

These are exceptions to some areas of the State by fire districts. In these areas equipment is good--to very good. It is maintained and operable depending upon the tax base for sufficient funds to keep it maintained and operable.

Turn-outs, protective gear, and extra hose is maintained where there is community interest. Some departments do not have any protective gear and some that do, simply leave the equipment lying in the dust of the engine house. Extra hose was observed in original shipping containers, when wet, and dirty hose was still on the fire apparatus. No effort is made in many cases to clean and dry hose after a fire.

#### MANPOWER:

Of the departments contacted during this survey, the volunteer manpower appeared adequate on the department roster. In speaking with some fire chiefs, it was evident that no system exists for replacing members in some departments that failed to respond to fires or training sessions. Many departments simply blow the siren and the community responds in sufficient numbers to attack and extinguish the fire. These departments seem satisfied with this system and will resist any attempt to formalize their volunteer status. In Pershing county, one community is protected entirely by women. No male firefighters are available during the normal daylight working hours. The spirit in this department is good and community interest is high, although training is badly needed.

It was evident that many department fire chiefs needed help to stimulate community interest and administrative backing. Many chiefs were willing to begin leadership programs and training but are without funds and stimulus to attempt a start. These communities definitely need State assistance in leadership and tactical training.

In manpower, luck plays an important role. In many departments the result is favorable, if the fire occurs at the right time.

#### COMMUNITY INTEREST:

By asking any one person in a community if they feel they have sufficient fire protection, the majority will answer in the affirmative. It is very apparent that the general feeling of well being typifies a total lack of awareness of the real fire danger. This is a normal attitude and hard to overcome. The feeling that "when, and if, it happens, we will handle it" is a dangerous attitude in many communities with limited water supply, poor equipment, untrained volunteers, substandard construction.

In rural Nevada, public awareness in fire prevention and fire protection should be a priority item in any program to improve fire deficiencies. With this lack of community interest, it is no wonder that volunteer fire departments are struggling for improvement.

#### PROTECTION OF HAZARDS:

Hazards range from sagebrush and cheat grass, flammable liquid storage, to high explosives. Protection of these types of hazards are virtually nonexistent. Poor construction, inadequate clearance, unprotected ignition sources, hazardous electrical wiring, and a lack of fire protection safeguards make some communities a design for disaster.

Many of these communities are built on the ashes of history and are awaiting the day when history will repeat itself. Enforcement of fire codes and standards even in the industries that support the communities sole economy are being ignored. Examples; the fire in Lincoln County that virtually wiped out the Caselton Mine; the fire in Northern Elko County that eliminated half of the community business district; the series of fires in one city in White Pine County that is slowly eliminating main street. The second priority in any program to bolster fire defenses in rural Nevada is code enforcement.

#### FIRE INVESTIGATION:

Since there are no statutes in Nevada mandating that fire departments investigate all fires as to cause and origin, rural Nevada simply ignores this essential fire service responsibility. Some districts and counties have the ability to train paid members in neighboring areas to assist the volunteer and some effort is being made by the State Fire Training program to provide fire/arson investigation training sessions.

In our survey we discovered that when the fire is out the job is completed. The cause of the fire, if apparent, is noted and if not, it remains unknown. Fire investigation plays an important role in the over-all fire prevention picture. A fire cause identified can lead to preventing future fires in a community with identical hazards or circumstances. The volunteer fire chiefs can do his community a service by making fire causes known in his community. Lives and property can be saved. Arson is another question. Arson undetected in a community is letting a criminal element survive without punishment. A thief, a child molester, or rapist will quickly bring a small community to demand swift justice. The arsonist if undetected lives on in the community even though his crime has caused serious financial hardship to its citizens. Fire causes must be investigated and training must reach out to all volunteer fire departments in rural Nevada.

#### FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

Fire prevention and the protection of fire hazards run hand in hand. However, fire prevention in itself is everyones' responsibility. Fire prevention in its' true sense is nonexistent in the areas covered by our survey with the exception of a few large fire districts served by a county fire marshal or district chief.

There are no efforts to program or plan fire prevention activities. Most rural communities look to the State for such programs. At the present time the State is unable to promote fire prevention in rural Nevada, although plans are under way for long-range fire prevention training programs. Volunteers for the most part are unable to spare the necessary time away from their jobs to become active in community fire prevention. However, pleas were made to us during this survey to attend town meetings to promote public awareness. Fire prevention in rural Nevada must be another priority in the fire defense picture.

## TRAINING:

Although this survey was not for the purpose of evaluating the Nevada State Fire Training Program, there were comments made, and suggested improvements voiced, by those we contacted.

The majority of departments we visited were satisfied with the assistance they were receiving. Some departments with frequent turnover in volunteer members wanted additional training sessions. A few departments had never had any recent training whatsoever and asked us to give our regards to Captain Matherly. (Captain Matherly retired in 1969 as Nevada Fire Training Officer.) We explained that the fire service training program was under tight schedule. Any additional training request had to be submitted in writing far enough ahead for the training director to fit it into his schedule. We explained, also, that the State Fire Marshal was available for suspected arson investigations, and that the training director was scheduling training in fire and arson investigation at the present time.

## OVERALL SUMMARY:

Volunteer fire departments in Nevada need assistance in every level identified in the fire defense picture. Although funding is essentially lacking, and used as an excuse to avoid fire protection responsibilities, the problem can no longer be ignored. I chose to leave out any reference to insurance ratings as an impetus to create awareness of the problem for the reason that, in most cases, improving the insurance rating would be too expensive and the present rating system is much too arbitrary with emphasis on unreasonable demands for pumping capacity, water supply, apparatus, mops, buckets, brooms, etc.

The fire defense can be improved starting with three basic areas along with the proper training programs:

1. Public fire protection education.
2. Fire/arson investigation.
3. Code enforcement.

The entire training discipline must be strengthened starting at the State level and fulfilling the local need by routing knowledge back to the community. Not only is it essential that we reorient our thinking back to the basic fire triangle but, also, we must create a public awareness that in rural Nevada all of our eggs are in one basket and that any, and every fire, is a substantial loss to the entire community as a whole.

True, we must continue to study the fire fighting capability and maintain a fire suppression unit in each community, for we cannot avoid the thoughtless or careless act of any individual in a combustible environment. However, fire can be prevented and the threat of fire catastrophe eliminated. -- lives can be saved!

The theory that hardware can provide the means for total fire safety is not valid. In some cases hardware is the answer, but for total community protection, each citizen must be aware of his responsibility to protect himself and others from the threat of fire. The volunteer fireman must be the catalyst in rural Nevada. The State must supply him with the knowledge he needs to assist in the fire defense in his community.

Following is a rating on a scale of 1-10 in each category covered in this report:

Equipment, 5  
Manpower, 6  
Community interest, 3  
Protection of hazards, 2  
Fire investigation, 1  
Fire prevention activities, 1  
Training, 6  
Overall, 3.3

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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copy*

DEFINITION OF THE CLASS:

Under administrative direction, is responsible for enforcing State laws, rules and regulations relating to the prevention of fires; the storage and use of combustibles and explosives; enforcement of safety standards for the construction of mobile home units, travel trailers and factory built housing; and performs related duties as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in industrial management, physical science, engineering, industrial hygiene or related fields and four years of supervisory or administrative experience in fire suppression, safety engineering, or safety inspection work. Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education above high school graduation on a year for year basis.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of fire suppression and safety methods and procedures; ability to recognize and develop preventive devices and methods for hazardous conditions; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships; ability to speak and write effectively; ability to keep records and prepare reports.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: (The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)

Oversees the safety of and directs the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from factories, asylums, hospitals, churches, schools, halls, theaters, amphitheaters, all buildings, except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, and all places where large numbers of persons work, live or congregate from time to time for any purpose; promotes practices to suppress and punish arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses, and directs investigations of suspected arson; reviews and approves construction plans and alterations for public buildings, hospitals, nursing homes, child care agencies and boarding homes in order to assure emergency egress; advises architects and engineers as to access and exit requirements and fire resistance of materials acceptable under established standards. Interprets national and State fire codes; promulgates rules and regulations; approves fire equipment servicing agents; checks adequacy of alarm systems; establishes licensing systems for handling, selling, storage and transportation of flammable materials. Oversees the safety inspection and licensing programs for mobile homes, travel trailers and factory built housing.



**FIRE PREVENTION AND  
FIRE INVESTIGATORS  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NORTHERN  
NEVADA**

Exhibit ③



April 22, 1977

The Honorable Don Moody  
Assembly Government  
Affairs Committee  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention/Fire Investigators Association of Northern Nevada, I would like to go on record as opposing SB435.

There appears to be a personality clash involved and we feel the Office of the State Fire Marshal should not be used to settle personal differences.

Abolishing the Office of the State Fire Marshal from the Commerce Department and putting it in the Insurance Department cannot and will not serve any useful purpose, and will not be in the best interest for the people of the State of Nevada.

Everyone in the State, at one time or another, has utilized this office; even the larger counties that have organized paid fire departments, even though it has been on a request basis.

It is our recommendation that this office not be placed in the Insurance Department; but taken out of the Commerce Department, and placed directly under the Governor's Office.

We recommend that a Study Committee be appointed, comprised of the Legislative Branch, Building Industry, Fire Service Branch, and Life Safety Officials.

We would be most happy to volunteer our services or testify in any manner you choose.

Respectfully yours,

William G. Tapia, President  
Fire Prevention/Fire Investigators  
Association of Northern Nevada  
P. O. Box 515  
Sparks, Nevada 89431

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cc: File

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# NEVADA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

April 21, 1977

Honorable Patrick M. Murphy, Chairman  
Government Affairs Committee  
Nevada State Legislative Building  
401 South Carson  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Sir:

The Nevada State Firemen's Association, with over 700 member firemen throughout the State of Nevada, strongly opposes Senate Bill 435. Passage of this bill will seriously impair fire prevention and life-safety efforts which are now being conducted by the State Fire Marshal's office. It would not be in the best interests of the people of the State of Nevada to pass this legislation which would abolish such a needed separate division of state government, which has accomplished a great deal with regard to fire prevention and life-safety throughout the State of Nevada.

The State Fire Marshal's office was removed from the office of the Insurance Commission seven years ago for the reason that it could function better and serve the needs of the people more efficiently as a separate division under the Department of Commerce.

The State Fire Marshal must be a highly qualified, fire-orientated individual who possesses technical expertise in the fields of fire protection, arson investigation, code application to existing and proposed conditions, and who is totally dedicated to the awesome and unrewarding responsibility of regulating to improve conditions of fire and life-safety for the people of the state. In our opinion, the Commissioner of Insurance, although highly qualified in his own field, does not possess these needed qualifications.

It is also our opinion that the current activities conducted by the State Fire Marshal's office could not be continued with the same degree of priority and efficiency if the responsibilities of that office were buried in another office which performs totally different and unrelated activities.

The Nevada State Firemen's Association, along with other fire agencies and life-safety officials, recognize a need for expanded and new fire prevention programs to be implemented in the State of Nevada.

Many outlying areas of our state rely heavily on assistance and guidance from the State Fire Marshal's office. These fire service people now enjoy a direct line of communication with a

LETTER - Honorable Patrick M. Murphy, Chairman  
April 21, 1977  
Page 2

State Fire Marshal who is capable and willing to make timely decisions and offer solutions to the difficult problems facing the rural volunteer fire chiefs.

Forty-eight (48) states in the United States have an office of the State Fire Marshal and realize the importance of such a division of state government which is staffed with competent, dedicated people who can work continually to keep abreast of the rapidly changing fields of construction, hazards or materials, and systems to provide protection and life-safety from fire.

I do not see our State Fire Marshal's office as an over-staffed and inefficient division of state government.

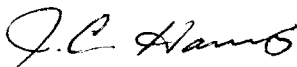
What I do see is a very few highly qualified and dedicated people who have accomplished a great deal in their short period of existence.

The State Fire Marshal's office is only hampered by limited funding and the efforts of a few irresponsible and special interest motivated individuals who have attempted for the past three sessions of the state legislature to abolish this needed office without regard for the protection of lives and property of the people of this state.

I respectfully urge your consideration on this proposed legislation, and that you will not vote in haste on this important and far reaching measure. I ask you to cast a responsible "NO" vote, which reflects the best interest of the people of this great state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



J. C. Harris, President  
Nevada State Firemen's Association

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## NEVADA STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

April 20, 1977

Honorable Patrick M. Murphy, Chairman  
Assembly Government Affairs Committee  
Nevada State Legislative Building  
401 South Carson  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Senate Bill 435

Sir:

The fire services of the State of Nevada have the awesome responsibility for the protection of lives and property from fire. The fire services are also dedicated to reducing loss of life and property damage by practicing what is known as fire prevention, which includes such activities as: public awareness, public education and fire and life safety code enforcement.

In 1965 our state legislature realized that the State of Nevada like many other states has a responsibility to the people of the state to provide for life safety from fire. Therefore, NRS 477 known as the Fire Marshal's Act was passed.

In the 12 years we have had a State Fire Marshal's office, some state regulations have been adopted to provide for better and safer construction of buildings, for life safety of those who occupy certain buildings, and regulations for installation and maintenance of fire protection equipment, to name a few.

In some areas of the state, local government has adopted more stringent fire and life safety codes by ordinance. Some of the larger fire departments have fully paid and competent members of their department permanently assigned to the duties of fire prevention and code enforcement, including arson investigation.

However, the great majority of the communities of this state are protected by volunteer firemen. These dedicated men volunteer their time and risk their lives to protect the people of their community in the event of fire.

In many cases, it is difficult and awkward for a volunteer firemen to enforce state regulations on his neighbors, employer, relatives, etc., although these volunteer firemen are performing

a vital and valuable service to their community, few of these men have the time to volunteer to become proficient in the technical fields of fire prevention and arson investigation. The services of the State Fire Marshal are needed to some degree in all areas of the state.

The State Fire Marshal has often been unable to provide the assistance sometimes requested from outlying areas in the state. As a result, hazardous conditions continue to exist in many areas and fire causes are sometimes left undetermined with the possibility of arson going undetected.

There is an enormous amount of assistance and guidance that could be provided to these areas by the State Fire Marshal's office.

As a result of the National Commission of Fire Prevention and Control's Report entitled "America Burning", the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created. The congressional mandate of the N.F.P.C.A. is to support, assist, and reinforce the fire prevention efforts of state and local governments.

The State of Nevada was one of the first thirteen states to receive a grant from the N.F.P.C.A. The grant was for a statewide 5 year plan for fire training and education. In the future the magnitude and scope of the N.F.P.C.A. programs will become more and more significant with the possibility of funding assistance to the state for the implementation of our fire prevention and education programs. With federal focus now on fire prevention and control and with the current attention to fire prevention and control within our fire service organizations here in Nevada, it would be a serious mistake to abolish the office of the State Fire Marshal.

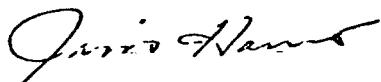
Each state, local government and fire service agency and organization has a responsibility to continue to improve existing programs and to implement new programs where they are non existant if we are to be successful in reducing the terribly unnecessary life loss and property damage resulting from fire.

The Nevada State Firemen's Association has joined with other life safety officials throughout the state in recommending that an interim study committee be appointed, comprised of legislative branch, building industry, board of architects and life safety officials to study possible statutory problems

which could be improved to enable the State Fire Marshal's office to provide the assistance and guidance in those areas where the need for such assistance exists.

The Nevada State Firemen's Association strongly opposes SB 435 and urges this committee to VOTE NO.

Respectfully,



Jim Harris, President  
Nevada State Firemen's Association

## PROPOSED GREENBELT LAND EXCHANGE

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 232.158 or any other law of the State of Nevada, the state land registrar on behalf of the State of Nevada is hereby authorized and directed to release the park and recreation restrictions in that deed from the State of Nevada to the City of Reno filed for record in the Washoe County recorder's office on July 11, 1973 in Official Records as Document No. 293533, Book 746, Page 434; by quitclaim deed, to the City of Reno, all of the right, title and interest of the State of Nevada in and to certain real property situated in the City of Reno, County of Washoe, State of Nevada, and on only that portion particularly described as follows:

A portion of the northwest quarter of Section 7, Township 19 North, Range 20 East, M.D.B.&M., Washoe County, Nevada being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the northwest corner of said Section 7; thence S.  $0^{\circ}36'02''$  W., 695.39 feet along the west line of said Section to a point on the south line of the Southern Pacific Railroad; the point of beginning; thence N.  $80^{\circ}00'32''$  E. 316.02 feet along said line to a point on the west line of the north-south freeway, U.S. 395; thence S.  $29^{\circ}11'16''$  E. 605.67 feet to a point on the north line of Kietzke Lane; thence westerly along said north line of Kietzke Lane, on a 1250.00 foot radius curve to the left from a tangent bearing S.  $63^{\circ}05'02''$  W., through a central angle of  $2^{\circ}45'03''$  and an arc length of 60.01 feet; thence leaving the north line of Kietzke Lane proceed N.  $29^{\circ}11'16''$  W. 255.02 feet; thence S.  $60^{\circ}48'44''$  W. 498.12 feet; thence N.  $0^{\circ}36'02''$  E. 522.69 feet to the point of beginning.

Said parcel contains an area of 4.455 acres of land more or less.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective upon passage and approval, but subject to the City of Reno providing sufficient evidence to the state land registrar that 2.541 acres is restricted for park and recreation use, and further described as follows:

A portion of the northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 19 North Range 19 East M.D.B.&M., Washoe County, Nevada being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the northeast corner of said Section 12; thence S.  $0^{\circ}36'02''$  W. 1218.06 feet along the east line of said Section to the point of beginning; thence S.  $82^{\circ}05'52''$  W. 339.94 feet; thence S.  $88^{\circ}18'00''$  W. 257.00 feet; thence S.  $79^{\circ}48'12''$  W. 160.00 feet to a point on the west line of the Grantor herein; thence S.  $0^{\circ}51'02''$  W. 73.57 feet to the northerly low water mark of the Truckee River, thence easterly along said low water mark the following 12 courses and distances: N.  $67^{\circ}53'14''$  E. 57.67 feet; N.  $85^{\circ}35'35''$  E. 122.80 feet; S.  $68^{\circ}28'04''$  E. 99.81 feet; S.  $67^{\circ}01'33''$  E. 73.23 feet; S.  $66^{\circ}20'54''$  E. 65.08 feet; S.  $74^{\circ}20'26''$  E. 36.64 feet; S.  $70^{\circ}58'22''$  E. 50.23 feet; N.  $79^{\circ}49'20''$  E. 51.37 feet; S.  $74^{\circ}21'27''$  E. 32.71 feet; N.  $84^{\circ}54'45''$  E. 51.13 feet; N.  $77^{\circ}28'20''$  E. 57.82 feet; thence N.  $73^{\circ}26'01''$  E. 85.68 feet to a point on the east line of Section 12, described above; thence N.  $0^{\circ}36'02''$  E. 200.94 feet along said line to the point of beginning.

Said parcel contains an area of 2.541 acres of land more or less.