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Board of County Commissioners

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Testimony of Bruce Woodbury on AB 84

Mr. Chairman:

I am Bruce Woodbury, Clark County Commissioner. I urge the committee to modify AB 84 to eliminate term limits for Town Advisory Board (TAB) and Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) members. If that is not possible, I hope that this legislation can be amended to at least allow citizens to serve for longer than is currently allowed before becoming term-limited.

In my experience nearly all of our TAB's and CAC's in both urban and rural towns found it necessary to have 1 or 2 long-time members to provide essential leadership and continuity. Nearly always, it has been the senior members of these valuable advisory boards who take the time to meet with constituents, attend Planning Commission and County Commission meetings and communicate the needs of the neighborhoods to the Commissioners representing them.

In Clark County, within 13 Townships we need to recruit and maintain 65 Town Board positions. That's more than the total membership of the Nevada Legislature, and it takes quite an effort - as I know some of you who work to recruit candidates for the legislature can readily understand - to attract volunteers for these spots. The County has been quite active through its neighborhood college program in working to develop citizen leaders, but even with such efforts, it is very difficult to attract volunteer Town Advisory Board members in some areas.

Surely, the elected County Commissioners who make these appointments should be the ones to determine who should serve on these important boards. In some of our outlying towns such as Laughlin, Searchlight, Moapa Valley and Bunkerville, the residents vote in advisory straw polls for those seeking to be appointed. There is simply no public interest in limiting the volunteer service of able and dedicated citizens who through their experience and knowledge have become valuable leaders of their towns.

I respectfully request that you eliminate or at least revise these unnecessary restrictions so that County Commissioners can obtain the best possible advice and assistance in serving our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

DATE: 3/28/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT L

SUBMITTED BY: BRUCE WOODBURY

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