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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. 3-31-03

My name is Elizabeth Howe and my husband and I live in Silver Knolls, a rural community just west of the Stead Airport and about 3 miles from 395 off Red Rock Road. Silver Knolls is a part of the area known as "the North Valleys" and is located 20 miles north of the center of Reno. We have lived in Silver Knolls 27 years so have seen gradual growth in our area.

I would first like to thank the legislators, Don Gustavson, Sharron Angle, Dawn Gibbons and John Marvel for introducing this bill. My husband and I attended many of the meetings in 2001 & 2002 dealing with the 2002 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan Update and became very discouraged with the voting process used in the Regional Planning Commission and in the Regional Planning Governing Board. We in the unincorporated area felt that when items in the plan came up for a vote, our concerns never had a chance. The vote was almost always 6 to 3 in the Planning Commission and 7 to 3 in the Governing Board. Reno and Sparks had 6 votes in the Planning Commission and 7 votes in the Governing Board. Washoe County had 3 votes either place. With this new proposal of a 2/3rds vote of each entity being required in the Planning Commission, I feel that everyone's concerns would be more fairly listened to. I'm sure more compromises would have to be made. The people in our community want to have more say on what type of development is allowed to take place within our boundaries. With a more equal vote, I feel our concerns for keeping our quality of life, protecting our wells and keeping our rural lifestyle would have a better chance of being protected.

~~I do have some concerns with Section 2, page 3 & 4 of AB 379. If this section is dealing with the voting of the Governing Board, the change in the voting procedure should read the same as in AB 380 (page 5). "Any action taken by the governing board on an appeal pursuant to this subsection must be by the affirmative vote of a majority of the representatives appointed by EACH appointing authority."~~

I would like to encourage this committee to approve AB379 allowing it to move out of committee to the floor for a vote.

Thank you.

Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. 3-31-03

My name is Elizabeth Howe and I'm from Silver Knolls, a rural community in the "North Valleys" area located 20 miles north of the center of Reno.

I wish to encourage the committee to approve AB 380 allowing it to move out of committee to the floor for a vote. We have become very concerned with the use of "spheres of influence". Instead of being a means for good growth planning, it has become a mechanism that allows the incorporated cities to take in large areas which actually helps developers who didn't like the Washoe County development requirements. We, as unincorporated county residents, have been pleased with county services and do not appreciate the threat of Reno's encroachment into large county areas. It must be remembered that it is the unincorporated community that is the most impacted with the city's "spheres of influence". The way the law is now, decisions involving areas in a sphere of influence will be made by a board where the affected unincorporated area residents will have no representation.

Again, I encourage the committee to approve AB 380.

Thank you.