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EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

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**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
MAY 14, 2003**

TESTIMONY ON SB 458

**KAREN J. KENNARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

My name is Karen Kennard. I am the Executive Director of the State Emergency Response Commission. The SERC is opposed to this bill as it is written as it does not address the collection of SARA (Superfund Amendment Re-authorization Act) fees. Currently, the State Fire Marshal receives the hazardous materials combined reports along with the permit and SARA fees. They deposit the SARA fees to the Contingency Account for Hazardous Materials which is under the SERC budget.

If these fees are not collected, the SERC stands to lose approximately one half million dollars in revenue which is granted to the Local Emergency Planning Committees for the purpose of training and equipping local 1st responders for hazardous materials incidents.

Additionally, as written this bill directs the local agencies to deposit the fees collected into the county treasury for quarterly submission to the contingency account for hazardous materials. This process could drastically reduce the amount of interest earned on the contingency account funds.

With these areas of concerns addressed and adoption of the City of Reno's amendment in regards to leaving Section 9 as is, these problems will be alleviated and the SERC is neutral on this bill.