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I am Laurel Stadler, Chapter Director for MADD. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of AB7. AB7 is one of the best opportunities this Legislature has to save lives in Nevada. You not only have the opportunity to save lives with this legislation, but you will also save Nevada millions in highway funding in future years. You have heard what we are scheduled to lose if AB7 is not passed and implemented by September 30 of this year.

We have been endorsing this legislation since 1991 and the figures substantiate our continued support for .08 legislation. Research says that a national .08 level will save about 500 lives per year in our country and a 2001 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed a 7% decrease in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities in states that implemented a .08 limit. Somewhere between this 7% and the almost 50% reduction that California achieved since 1990 is what we expect Nevada to realize.

.08 legislation serves as a general deterrent and effectively reduces crash data at all BAC levels. By passing .08, this Legislature will send a message to all Nevadans that impaired driving will not be tolerated.

Please don't let anyone tell you that this legislation will fill our prisons. Since the inception of the 305 program in 1991, the early release scheme for felony DUI offenders, there has developed a virtual "revolving door" for third time felony offenders that has substantially reduced prison costs. And if we can achieve even modest reductions in alcohol-related fatal crashes, we will bring our prosecution and prison costs down markedly for DUI offenders causing death.

We are also very aware of the population growth in Nevada, but we do not accept that as a reason to accept an increase in alcohol-related fatalities. We know that the US population grew tremendously in the last 20 years 1980-2000, but because of the work of MADD and other groups and the increased public awareness of the crime of DUI and a complement of DUI laws enacted, the alcohol-related fatality rate, nationally, has decreased about 40% in those same 20 years.

Former Assemblyman, now Attorney General Brian Sandoval, worked very hard in 1997 to bring boating under the influence on even keel with DUI. We very much appreciate that AB7 and AB104 both keep the .08 threshold consistent for both crimes. I have copied a recent article that reports "2002 boating season deadliest in four years" with 50% alcohol-related. Additionally, it only makes sense that the boating public will be driving home from their outing and the BUI/DUI thresholds should be consistent.

We are now over 10 years into our mission to pass this lifesaving legislation. We need to pass AB7 NOW so that we can start saving lives in Nevada. We have lost a decade and well over 100 lives who we believe wouldn't have died had .08 been implemented in the early '90s. Please remember that Time Lost = Lives Lost and please pass AB7.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY
DATE: 3/7/03 ROOM: 3128 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: Laurel Stadler

1052

2002 boating season deadliest in four years

■ Common factors such as alcohol and swimming from a boat cited 1-29-03

Submitted Article

Edwin W. Lyngar

The results are in, and they don't look good. Eight people died on Nevada's waterways in 2002, well above the 10-year average of just over five per year. The last year to have more fatalities was 1996, when nine persons died. Although the numbers for injuries and property damage won't be available for several months, 2002 will be remembered as a deadly one.

A preliminary review of the numbers from last year shows some disturbing trends. Alcohol was a contributing factor in half of all fatalities. Another similarity arose in another 50 percent of fatalities last year showing half

of all boaters killed had gone swimming from their boats.

"We were very disturbed by the number of fatalities this year, but we hope our new mandatory boater education program will help us bring down these statistics," said Fred Messmann, Nevada's boating law administrator. "We hate to see even one boater killed because of preventable mistakes or alcohol."

The education program Messmann cites is the new state law requiring boaters born on or after Jan. 1, 1983, who operate motorboats of 15 horsepower or above on Nevada's interstate waters, to complete a boating safety course. NDOW has been working hard to improve boater education and safety in the state, and the new requirement seems to have come at a time when most needed.

NDOW, Nevada's safe boating agency, tracks fatalities each year to uncover trends and information that can be used to reduce boating accidents and death. NDOW will use the statistics from this year to educate boaters on some of the dangers they face, according to Messmann.

Synopsis:

•April 13 - A 51-year-old man died near Callville Bay at Lake Mead after falling off his boat. Alcohol and failure to wear a personal flotation device were factors.

•May 27 - An eight-year-old girl was killed by a propeller when she fell overboard after her boat was hit by another vessel at Sandy Cove at Lake Mead. Alcohol and inexperience were factors.

•June 22 - A 20-year-old man was killed after being struck by

another vessel while water skiing on Topaz Lake. Alcohol was a factor.

•July 21 - A father and son drowned while swimming from a pontoon boat on Lake Mead, with witnesses a short distance away.

•July 23 - A 39-year-old man died while swimming from his boat at Crawford Cove in Lake Mead. Attempts to rescue the man failed.

•Aug. 2 - A 42-year-old male drowned while trying to swim from a boat at Callville Bay, Lake Mead. Several persons unfamiliar with boat operation were unable to help. Alcohol was a factor.

•Aug. 29 - A 15-year-old was killed on a personal watercraft after colliding with a personal watercraft operated by another teenager at Lake Tahoe.