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March 24, 2003

Testimony in opposition to AB416

Andrew Goodrich, Director

Washoe District Health - Air Quality Management

Good Afternoon, Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record my name is Andrew Goodrich, I am Director of the Air Quality Management Division for the Washoe County District Health Department. I am here today to testify in opposition to the amendments proposed in Assembly Bill 416. I would like to present my concern in three specific three areas:

First, if this bill were to pass it would represent a significant funding reduction for the air quality program in Washoe County. Currently the funds collected by this program account for approximately 15 percent of the air quality programs' revenue. These monies pay for the maintenance and operation of our ambient air quality monitoring program. With shrinking local county funds, and federal monies being threatened by other priorities, any additional short fall in revenues would result in program service reductions.

Second, Washoe County is officially designated by the U.S. EPA as a non-attainment area for ozone and carbon monoxide, and a serious non-attainment area for particulate matter. In other words, the citizens in Washoe County have been exposed to air quality that does not meet federal health standards. We have seen great improvements in air quality in the last decade; however we're not out of the woods yet and now is not the time to reduce programs designed to clean up our air.

In response to these designations, the District Health Department along with our partners at NDEP, DMV, private businesses, and the public have crafted regulations for an effective and federally approved inspection and maintenance program for motor vehicles. To drastically re-structure the I&M program would require significant

revisions to air quality plans necessary to reach the goal of clean air. To be federally acceptable, these plans, known as State Implementation Plans or SIPs, must show progress towards clean air or otherwise risk being disapproved and possible sanctions such as highway funds being reduced.

Finally, and the most important concern, is the air quality. The proposed changes would result in the increase in emissions from the single largest source of pollutants in the State of Nevada: motor vehicles. Some may argue that the increase would be minimal and could be offset by other controls. However, due to the magnitude of the emissions contribution made by motor vehicles, even small percentage increases from this source would result in large impacts to local air quality. I have heard the argument that California only tests vehicles every other year - so why can't we? It must be understood that California implements a different test procedure that is a more rigorous test utilizing a dynamometer, or basically, a treadmill for cars. Consequently, the test requires much more time to conduct and is significantly more expensive than the test in Nevada.

to the public

In summary, the Washoe District Health Department is opposed to the AB416 amendments because: they will result in significant lost revenues to the local air quality programs; the changes may not be acceptable in federal air quality planning documents resulting in cuts to federal highway funds; and finally, this bill will result in increased air pollution in the two counties already exceeding the federal health standards.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity to comment on this bill.

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- 30 YEAR ROLLING PERIODS OK
 - 3 years old + newer
 - FAILURES ARE NOT ALWAYS SMOKERS
 - 97 SESSION ATTEMPT INCLINE VILLAGE