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## HOFFMAN, TEST, GUINAN & COLLIER

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April 2, 2003

Assembly Taxation Committee State Legislature Carson City, NV 89701

> Re: AB517 as it affects the Nevada Insurance Guaranty Association Tentatively scheduled for hearing on April 10, 2003

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This office represents the Nevada Insurance Guaranty Association (NIGA). NIGA was created in 1971 by NRS 687A.040, and is governed by the provisions of Chapter 687A of NRS. It is charged by statute to pay "covered claims" in the event of an insurance company insolvency. In brief, it is the "FDIC" of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Nevada. It acts as the statutory surrogate for insolvent insurance companies in Nevada and steps in to protect Nevada insureds and pay claims within the guidelines of the statute.

AB517, being considered by your Committee, seeks to impose a 14% excise tax on "financial institutions" as defined in section 4 of the bill. NIGA, which is a statutory non-profit association, is not a financial institution as defined in the bill. Nevertheless, section 43 of AB517 proposes to amend NRS 687A.130, which specifically exempts NIGA from payment of all fees and taxes except property taxes. This amendment to NRS 687A.130 would also exclude the excise tax from NIGA's tax exemption.

On behalf of NIGA I request that section 43 be deleted from AB517. NIGA is not a financial institution, and there is no good reason to create an ambiguity by referring to the excise tax in the Nevada Insurance Guaranty Association Act.

If you have any questions, I would be pleased to discuss this matter with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,

HOFFMANATEST, GUINAN & COLLIER

David J. Guinan, Esq.

DJG

cc: Randy Livingston

ASSEMBLY TAXATION ALOS EXHIBIT L
SUBMITTED BY: Oavi Guidan