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June 5, 2002

Assemblyman Tom Collins
4716 San Miguel Avenue
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Dear Assemblyman Collins:

The Department of Agriculture strongly supports the establishment of border inspection stations on major and secondary highways leading into Nevada. This may require *four* large facilities on the interstates and another *seven* smaller facilities on other highways.

The construction and maintenance of these stations may cost millions, however, they would be a major element in safeguarding Nevada and providing economic benefits, as many new taxes would be collected. At the current time much of the agricultural and building materials entering Nevada is delivered directly to a job site, bypassing opportunity for sales taxes. A prime example is that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, has determined that the increased collections of sales taxes resulting from border stations actually exceeds the operating costs of the stations.

The human activities of transporting people and commodities around the world has provided opportunities for destructive non-indigenous invasive species to enter the United States and become established. According to a Cornell University study on the economic, environmental and public health cost of 79 non-indigenous invasive species that have entered and become established in the United States, the cost is in excess of \$125 billion annually. With the rapid increase in global travel and trade, over 20 new invasive species enter the United States each year.

Nevada is free of most of the non-indigenous invasive species. Preventing the entry of invasive species that cause detrimental economic, environmental and public health impacts would be enhanced by inspection stations on major highways leading into Nevada. Attached please find a summary of the detrimental effects of three such invasive species.

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 3-3-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT K

SUBMITTED BY: Assemblyman Tom Collins

K-1063

We appreciate your support for the various agricultural enforcement programs and look forward to working with you during the upcoming sessions. Should you need further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Iverson".

Paul Iverson
Director

PI/cmr

Enclosure

K-2063

Summary of the Detrimental Effects of Three Invasive Species

Imported fire ants

1. 500,000 people were stung in 1998 resulting in 13 near death reactions and \$1.8 million was spent for medical treatment in North Carolina.
2. 1-2% of the population is at risk from sudden death from fire ant stings.
3. Over \$1.2 billion in damage per year in Texas.
4. \$2,000 per mile of roadway repair in South Carolina.
5. Eradication costs:
 - A. Arizona \$100,000 in 1987 and \$1 million 1999.
 - B. California approximately \$ 6 million in 1999 and \$5 million per year for the next 4 years.
 - C. Nevada has eradicated imported fire ant infestations 10 times in the past 3 years.
6. 30% death rate to quail annually.
7. Over 1 million fish are killed each year.

Japanese Beetle

1. \$100 million spent annually in each of the 20 states infested.
2. \$800,000 eradication cost in San Diego.
3. \$20 million eradication in Oregon.
4. \$300,000 eradication in Las Vegas.

Gypsy moth

Eradication costs:

1. \$761 million in north eastern states.
2. \$22 million eradication cost in Washington and Oregon.