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Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. I am Joyce Woodhouse, Director of the School-Community Partnership Program for the Clark County School District and Co-Chair of the Southern Nevada JASON Project Science Consortium. I am here this morning to urge your support of Senate Bill 52.

I would like to first extend my appreciation to all of you and your colleagues for your attentiveness and hospitality afforded the students from Sheila Tarr Elementary School, their teacher Sharon Pearson, and their principal, Curtis Jones, as they presented the JASON Project to you on February 6, 2003. Thank you.

The JASON Project is a multi-disciplinary program that sparks the imagination of students and enhances the classroom experience. From oceans to rain forests, from polar regions to volcanoes, the JASON Project explores Planet Earth and exposes students to leading scientists who work with them to examine its biological and geological development.

From the depths of dark oceans to the heights of wet rainforests, from icy Polar Regions to red-hot volcanoes, the JASON Project travels the world, taking students and teachers on an exciting educational adventure. The JASON Project brings

adventure and the thrill of discovery into the classroom, exploring the following questions:

1. What are nature's dynamic systems?
2. How do these systems affect life?
3. What technologies do we use to study these systems and why?

The JASON Project began as the dream of Dr. Robert Ballard, the scientist and oceanographer who discovered the wreck of the RMS Titanic in 1986. Dr. Ballard believed that enabling students and their teachers to do field work from the classroom was a powerful concept. The JASON Project was born on the basis of this powerful idea and has since grown into the world's premier real-time science teaching and learning program. Therefore, the JASON Project is dedicated to inspiring in students a lifelong passion to pursue learning in science, math, and technology through exploration and discovery.

The education and research goals brought to the classroom by the JASON Project are:

- to promote student based research and conservation
- to expose students to diverse role models
- to provide global issues with local applications

- to utilize real-time data streams from national research institutions
- to collect, analyze, and share local field data with the research community and with classrooms around the world.

To reach these goals, the JASON Project employs the following:

- a multidisciplinary inquiry based curriculum, which is complimented by extensive professional development for teachers (Each JASON site provides training locally and/or statewide). The disciplines covered are life, earth, and physical sciences; geography, history, and culture; mathematics; English and language arts; fine arts; and technology.
- collaboration with host researchers in preparation of the curriculum, online chat sessions, and side by side hands on research during the live broadcasts
- assessment tools, which are included in the curriculum, and alignment with state and national standards
- Team JASON Online: a gated online resource for teachers and students, providing message boards, chat sessions ,evaluation and assessment documents, just to name a few
- video programs including a prologue video that is correlated to the content areas of the curriculum and a highlight tape at the end of each school year

- expedition novels, usually five in number, which are selected to enhance the content and understanding of the curriculum and to encourage and foster reading achievement
- the live telepresence broadcasts, which highlight the expedition research, incorporate the Student and Teacher Argonauts, and extend the knowledge base provided by the activities in the curriculum. These broadcasts are each one-hour in length, 55 in number over a two-week period transmitted from the research site. Broadcasts can be received in several ways: Primary Interactive Network Sites like CCSD receive three live satellite feed into an auditorium, schools can receive a single screen feed via instructional television, or video streaming over the Internet.

I would like to share briefly with you how and why the Clark County School District embraced the JASON Project. In 1989, just as I came on board as the director of the Partnership Program, Peter Zavatarro of EG&G asked me to look at a video tape of JASON II highlights. He was very excited about it, and so was I after reviewing it. As a longtime classroom teacher and elementary school principal, JASON served the needs of so many of us who needed and wanted to improve our science instruction to students in ways that would make it relevant to their world and their learning styles.

After procuring the necessary approvals from our administration, we received a grant from the Department of Energy for all expenses for our first two years. After that we conducted fundraisers with Dr. Ballard coming to Nevada on two separate occasions to assist. In 1997, we received funding from within the district which came from a technology appropriation made by the Nevada Legislature for which we were extremely grateful. Unfortunately, when the budget crisis hit my office last year, the district cut the JASON Project for 2001-2003. Because this program is so very important to the 22,000 plus teachers and students who take part in it each year, we went back to fundraising. And it has been hard to do, as you can imagine. Your support of Senate Bill 52 will allow us to continue to bring this exciting and educational program to our students.

Finally, I cannot speak for other school districts in Nevada, but I want you to know there are teachers in our state outside of Clark County who wish to utilize the JASON Project in their classrooms. Last year, Mrs. Pearson, you met her on February 6th, and I trained seven teachers from Amargossa Valley, Round Mountain, and Tonopah in an eight-hour session in Tonopah—and they didn't want to leave! This year, a marine science teacher from Dayton, at her own expense, flew to Las Vegas in August and again in November to attend our professional development sessions. Her

students saw the live broadcasts as well. An administrator in Elko has contacted me, interested in pursuing JASON for next year.

We sincerely hope you will help us all by approving Senate Bill 52 so that we all have funds available to bring the JASON Project to our students and teachers. I would like to leave you with two quotes from Dr. Robert Ballard:

“Any parent can tell you kids are fired up with curiosity. The first question they ask is why? Our job is to capture that natural curiosity and turn it into a lifelong passion for learning.”

“By taking advantage of cutting edge communications technology and bringing science to life, the JASON Project is helping to revolutionize the way science is taught. That is good news not only for our students, but for our country.”

I would like to introduce Dr. Craig Kadlub who will provide you with the district's position and share some evaluation data with you.

Thank you.