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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: For the record, my name is Martha Gould. Unfortunately I cannot be at this hearing but wish you to know of my support for AB 214. More and more, government entities at all levels are moving their information and publications into electronic formats, and doing so without understanding the implications in terms of public access, preservation, conservation, uniform standards, and permanent access. Digitized information is not permanent. AB 214 is a good start by identifying the State Library and Archives as the agency empowered to address the issues involved in e-government. Will there be a cost, absolutely. Will there be a greater cost if this bill is not passed, absolutely. So much of the work of Nevada government is now in electronic format without fully addressing the need to refresh digitized information, without uniform standards, without strategic planning for migration to whatever new technology will demand, without identifying what must be kept in hard copy, etc. and so forth.

During my term as Chair of the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, my agency at the request of Congress, did two landmark studies on the implications of e-government. The some of the recommendations from our studies are reflected in S 803, the e-government legislation recently passed by Congress. Furthermore, the US Public Printer, Mr. Bruce James, who incidentally is from Incline Village, in addressing the implications of electronic publishing of federal government information, is looking carefully at the recommendations of our studies in terms of the strategic planning for the changes necessary at the Government Printing Office.

I would hope, for the future of our State, that this Committee will give AB 214 a do pass, understanding the importance of protecting permanent access to the history, the work and the publications of Nevada government.

If we do not have access to the past, how can we adequately plan for the future?

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