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Testimony of Bruce Woodbury on AB 84

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank for the opportunity to offer testimony this afternoon on AB 84. I would respectfully request your consideration of two amendments to the bill that is before you.

The first amendment would replace the current 4 year term of Town Advisory Board members with 2 year terms. In Clark County, with our 13 Townships, we need to recruit and maintain 65 Town Board positions. That's more than the total membership of the Nevada Legislature, and it takes quite an effort to attract volunteers for these spots. The County has been quite active through its neighborhood college program in working to develop citizen leaders, but even with such efforts, it is still very difficult to attract volunteer Town Advisory Board members in some areas. The 4 year terms, I'm sure, serves as a disincentive for some citizens who might otherwise volunteer, but choose not to because of their inability to make a 4 year commitment to their community.

The second amendment would be to eliminate the provision requiring Town Board Chairs to rotate, by an election procedure, every 2 years. I believe decisions on who should Chair Town Advisory Boards should be left to the members of the Advisory Boards, and should not be governed by statutory requirements. This provision reduces the flexibility that these Boards currently have in making their own decisions based on what they believe would work best for them. Having attended many Town Board meetings, which often deal with difficult and contentious community issues, I can tell you that running these meetings is not an easy undertaking. It requires a certain skill and energy level that, frankly, not all Town Board members have. I can also tell you that not all Town Board members would be interested in Chairing these meetings. I'd respectfully request that you take this into account as you consider this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these amendments this afternoon.