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February 13, 2003

To: Membership of the Ways & Means Committee
From: William M. Bauer, Chief of Police, Carlin, Nevada
Re: Reduction of NDI Personnel, Budget, and Responsibilities

Chairman and Committee:

I am currently serving as the Chief of Police in Carlin, Nevada, however my tenure in the State of Nevada has spanned over thirty years and includes several rural police agencies.

I have personally witnessed the war on crime, both with and without the assistance of the Investigations Division.

The current budget proposal from the Governor's Office is advocating nearly a 50% cut in personnel for the Division, including 23 general and clerical positions, and all of its narcotics control personnel. This will leave Nevada as the *only* state in the Union without a drug enforcement agency. My reason for appearing before you today is to bring to light some data, which I am hopeful will assist you in seeing the folly of proceeding down such a path.

According to the latest crime reporting information, contained in Crime and Justice in Nevada, 2001, Part I offenses, which include the types of major crime routinely investigated by NDI, have risen significantly. Rape and Robbery rates rose 3 and 8%, respectively. The murder rate rose an astounding 30%! The coincidental rise in clearance rates serves only to underscore the fact that the law enforcement community is rising to the challenge.

Perhaps among the most enlightening statistic comes from the drug and alcohol arrest data. Law enforcement charged a staggering 11,234 drug violations in 2001, and nearly a third of them involved sales or manufacturing. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration has listed Nevada as a high intensity drug area, and in many of the most significant categories, our Part I offense rates are among the highest in the nation.

In response to this rather grim picture, the executive budget proposal reduces the amount requested by the Department of Corrections by nearly 1%, eliminates 23 parole and probation officer positions, and adds 2.1 more to the Public Defender's budget than they asked for! Ironically, the only other state law enforcement agency to receive excessively high fiscal "kudos" is the governor's dignitary protection unit, which saw their budget bumped another 6.3% above their requested piece of the pie. I would submit to you that such a fiscal arrangement of our crime-fighting dollars borders on reckless,

EXHIBIT R Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: 2-14-03 Page 1 of 25