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Senate Natural Resources Committee Presentation of SB419 April 7, 2003

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record my name is Russ Benzler and I am the Administrator for the Compliance Enforcement Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles. I am here today to present testimony in support of SB 419, which is a Department requested Bill.

This Bill seeks to increase the basic cost of the vehicle emission certificate and make changes to the order of agency funding contained in sub-section 2 of NRS 445B.830.

Specifically, section 1 of the Bill seeks to increase the cost of an emission certificate by \$2, from \$5 to \$7. Of that increase, \$1 is earmarked for addition to the Clark and Washoe County dedicated grants program, while the remaining dollar will remain in the Pollution Control Account to maintain an adequate reserve. This portion of the Bill is necessary to support the Governor's recommended budget for FY04-05, while addressing additional funding requests by both Clark and Washoe Counties.

The last change contained in the Bill, which is supported by both Washoe and Clark, deletes both counties from the priority agency funding scheme previously mentioned. This change will allow for a more coordinated disbursement method for non-budgeted disbursements from the Account. The additional \$1 increase in the dedicated grants program is intended to offset any potential loss from the change.