



March 19, 2015

The Honorable Randy Kirner, Chair
Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor
Nevada Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Re: Assembly Bill 182

Dear Chairman Kirner:

As the mayors of the two largest cities, we witnessed the stark impact of the recession on the working men and women of southern Nevada. Throughout that difficult time, our public servants and working men and women were the boots on the ground for this community having to tighten their belts if they were lucky enough not to be laid off. Now, as we enter a period of recovery and hoped for robust growth, many conversations abound about what to change and how much given all we have learned.

We believe AB 182 is one of those measures to start a dialogue about what we have learned, what we can improve, and what we must protect. From our vantage point, as southern Nevada mayors, leading as our communities recover, never once did we worry that crime would go unattended, medical emergencies left unattended or that our streets, parks or our water treatment plants would be left without service. You may ask why. It is because our public employees, who were harshly criticized by the media, despite significant reductions in workforce, worked hard to hold it together for our communities. All of our unions came together and joined in with concessions that saved our cities from the brink.

So we know collective bargaining can work; in fact, it has. Nothing is perfect, however, and many of the reforms outlined in this bill begin to change things that should not be changed while others identified

The Honorable Randy Kirner
March 19, 2015
Page 2

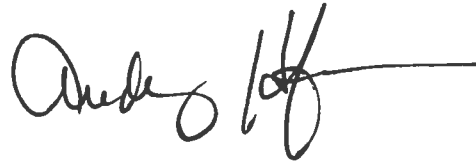
therein are areas of improvement. Subjects like protecting greater shares of funding from bargaining, tightening definitions of those subject to bargaining, preserving our rights to reductions in force are very significant and important improvements. However, we need to be careful to “not throw the baby out with the bathwater” by striking complete sections of the collective bargaining laws without consideration of what that might do to the stability, reliability, and even the survival of our work forces.

We are proud of our employees – we always have been. They were there for us when we needed it – when our citizens and our communities needed them. While improvements should be made, we should use AB 182 as a starting point for discussion and dialogue about what our cities need in our workforce and what our employees have come to expect from us as employers. In the end, we believe we can find common ground that improves the situation for all while keeping our public services strong and sustainable.

Sincerely,



Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman
City of Las Vegas



Mayor Andy Hafen
City of Henderson

c: Assemblywoman Victoria Seaman, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblywoman Michele Fiore
Assemblyman Ira Hansen
Assemblyman Erven T. Nelson
Assemblyman P.K. O'Neill
Assemblyman Stephen H. Silberkraus
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz
Assemblywoman Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick
Assemblywoman Dina Neal
Assemblyman James Ohrenschall