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Office of the Governor

October 8, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senator
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Heck
United States House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives
1330 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

Your service to our state is vitally important, and I want to thank you for your work and dedication. I know we all put Nevada first and understand how special and unique our great state is. We have all worked together to move our state forward, and I will always be grateful for your willingness to put partisanship aside when it comes to Nevada.

I feel compelled to write all of you to express my deep concern with the shutdown of the federal government and its potential impacts on our state. This shutdown impacts how the state operates, the services we are able to provide, and has the potential to set our state back when it comes to economic recovery. In the most basic of terms, this is about ensuring people are fed, houses are kept, and jobs are available.

As you are aware, Nevada was the last state to emerge from the great recession. While we have made much progress since the height of the recession, our unemployment rate still remains above the national average, and our housing market has not fully recovered. And while Nevada's economy is once again expanding, a prolonged federal shutdown undermines consumer confidence and threatens economic growth nationally.

Either of these outcomes endangers the tourism industry that is so important to our state.

Job creation and getting Nevadans working again has been my greatest priority since coming to office, and I know, as members of the federal delegation, it has been a priority of yours as well. However, I am concerned that we may be forced to take steps backwards as the impacts of this shutdown unfold on the economy. While we do not know the extent of the impact, we know even in the best of times the economic impact of a government shutdown is felt.

I am also deeply concerned about the possibility of a disruption in services to our state's neediest. Whether it is child nutrition programs, SNAP benefits, unemployment insurance, or dozens of other programs, this disruption in service undermines the economic and nutritional security of Nevadans. Those who are struggling may go hungry or be unable to pay their rent or mortgage. These services are designed to help those who have fallen on the hardest of times. A disruption to these services will be devastating for some.

The state has the ability to cover the cost of some federally funded programs during the shutdown by temporarily allocating money that has been set aside for other purposes. However, we have no assurances that the federal government will reimburse Nevada for any costs that it assumes during the shutdown. It is difficult to make informed choices on how to proceed absent swift action from the federal government to provide clear directions regarding which programs will be made whole and which will not. At a very minimum, the federal government needs to address this uncertainty so the state can plan financially and manage its affairs responsibly.

The State of Nevada cannot be expected to assume the costs of federal programs. We built our budget in good faith with reasonable assurances regarding federal funding levels. To that end, I have included a summary of the shutdown's impact on the people of Nevada. I implore each of you to work together to resolve the issues in Washington and to honor the federal commitment to Nevada.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter. As always, I am available to each of you should the need arise to discuss this further.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor