

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor



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**STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

December 4, 2008

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
Governor
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Gibbons:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the search being conducted to fill the executive director position at the Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT). As you may know, we closed the application process for applicants on October 24, 2008, and appointed a subcommittee of five commissioners who have reviewed and personally ranked the submitted resumes. The original goal of this subcommittee was to identify finalists for the position at the scheduled NCOT commission meeting, previously scheduled for December 8th - in conjunction with the 25th Governor's Conference on Tourism.

As we have been steadily moving forward to identify the next NCOT executive director, however, my office and commission staff learned just last week about your apparent legislative proposal to fold NCOT into the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED) for budget cutting purposes. In fact, your staff has spoken about the combined agencies operating under one executive director and a combined reduction in spending of \$4.9 million. In light of the current budget instructions from your office to reduce NCOT's budget by more than \$3 million in this current fiscal year, in addition to statements about having both agencies report to one executive director, we felt it was necessary to temporarily postpone the hiring process. Given the severe nature of the necessary budget cuts, the executive director's salary will most assuredly be needed to assist in meeting these mandated savings. As a result, I and others, including the Vice Chairman of NCOT, did not feel it was a prudent use of limited NCOT funds to pay for candidate interviews if in fact the executive director position is poised to be eliminated during next week's 25th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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Therefore, to directly address the concern expressed in your letter, I believe it would be most prudent to move forward only after the work of the 25th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature has been completed and the fate of these two agencies have been clarified. Should the NCOT executive director's position be available and fully funded for the current and pending bienniums, then NCOT will swiftly proceed with the process to identify the most qualified candidate for this critical position in Nevada's most vital industry - tourism.

Best regards,



Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Ferenc Szony, Vice-Chair
Eric Bello, Commissioner
Lorraine Hunt-Bono, Commissioner
Chuck Bowling, Commissioner
Cindy Carano, Commissioner
Blaise Carrig, Commissioner
Bruce Dewing, Commissioner
Ellen Oppenheim, Commissioner
Rossi Ralenkotter, Commissioner
Ryan Sheltra, Commissioner