

Lynn Hettrick
Republican Assembly Leader

August 9, 2006

Dear Nevada Republican,

In a few days, people all across our state will vote in an election that I believe will have an enormous impact on the direction our state will head in the coming years. I'm writing to tell you I hope you will be one of them, and I hope you will make the right decision.

I've served with two of our candidates for governor, Bob Beers and Jim Gibbons. In recent weeks, Gibbons, amid plummeting poll numbers and waning credibility, has flooded our air waves and our mail boxes with misleading and even blatantly false statements about Bob Beers' record. I would like to correct that record.

Gibbons is criticizing Beers for voting for the largest budget in state history in 2005. The truth is that because our state is growing rapidly, every budget for the last 60 years has been a record budget. *Gibbons himself voted for three out of three record state budgets* while in the legislature. And there's more to the story of that 2005 legislative session than Gibbons is telling you. Bob voted for that budget only after he succeeded in including a cut in the payroll tax and a \$300 million rebate to taxpayers. Bob was responsible for both. I know, because I was there. Finally, the 2005 budget was a balanced budget. *In 10 years in Washington, Jim Gibbons has never voted for a balanced budget. Not once.*

Gibbons also criticizes Bob for voting to increase his own legislative pay. Here's the truth: In 2003, Bob Beers managed to kill a bill to place future legislative pay in the hands of an unaccountable "commission" (which would surely have resulted in rapid, frequent legislative pay hikes) by building consensus around a 15% one-time legislative pay increase. Under Bob's proposal, state legislators would have taken home a modest total of about \$4,500 per year. *That total salary is less than the typical annual pay increase that Gibbons enjoys as a congressman.*

Finally, Gibbons has accused Bob of supporting increases in local property taxes. Gibbons provides no evidence to support this charge. Why? The charge is simply a lie.

Why has Jim Gibbons resorted to such dishonesty? Most likely it's because recent polls show the race for governor is now a dead heat. Gibbons, once the frontrunner, is tanking.

I'm not surprised. Like I said, I've served with both men, and I've always believed that as voters learned the differences between them, they'd come to the same conclusion I have: *Only Bob Beers has the experience, the integrity and the vision to lead our state.*

The greatest threat our state faces is a government that reaches deeper and deeper into *your* pockets. In 2003, state government passed the largest tax and spend hikes in our history. Today our government continues to grow twice as fast as our population. To pay for this expansion,

government is taking more and more of *your* hard-earned money. These tax hikes place an undue burden on Nevada's families, retirees and businesses.

I joined Bob Beers as he led the fight against that record tax hike in 2003. And though our efforts came up short, Bob was determined to make sure that kind of unnecessary expansion of government didn't occur again. It was then that Bob Beers came up with his idea for the ***Tax And Spending Control (TASC) initiative***.

TASC limits government spending increases to the rate of population growth plus inflation, unless voters approve additional increases. It gives voters the final say on greater spending increases and any proposed tax increases. That's right: ***TASC gives you a veto on tax hikes***.

Now Jim Gibbons is questioning Bob Beers' commitment to limiting government growth. Gibbons says *he's* the candidate you can trust. One would assume then that Gibbons, at the very least, supports the TASC initiative, right? Wrong. ***Jim Gibbons opposes TASC***. We really need look no further to judge a candidate's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Jim Gibbons says he doesn't need spending limitations like TASC. Gibbons says we can trust him. Yet I've seen first-hand what happens when we put our fiscal future in the hands of politicians. In that dreadful 2003 legislative session, despite the efforts of a few of us, too many of those politicians voted "yes" on that massive tax increase for us to stop it. Jim Gibbons' wife, Assemblywoman Dawn Gibbons, was one of them.

The truth is we can't afford to trust those politicians anymore. And we especially can't trust Jim Gibbons. Gibbons doesn't just oppose TASC. He opposes Bob's plan to repeal the state gas tax; he wants to spend rather than refund our budget surplus; he's voted for tens of billions of dollars in pork in Washington; and, after their endorsement and contribution, he promised state government employee unions more collective bargaining rights. This would require a tax hike.

There's only one way to make sure our politicians don't abuse our tax dollars any longer. That's to give you, and not them, the final say in how those dollars are spent. That's what TASC would do. And Jim Gibbons doesn't want you to have that power.

My fellow Nevadan, the stakes in this campaign are very high. I don't want my children and grandchildren, or yours, to be denied the endless opportunities you and I have enjoyed because we didn't stop excessive government growth before it was too late.

That's why I'm writing today. It's not too late yet. We can still choose a new direction. On August 15, we can vote for fiscal responsibility and government accountability. I'm proud to say I'm voting for Bob Beers for governor. I hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,



Lynn Hettrick