



September 15, 2008

Regent Ron Knecht  
Nevada System of Higher Education  
1009 Spencer Street  
Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Regent Knecht:

I recently watched a KARNV, Channel 4 of Reno, story titled "The battle over value of education and our economy." In that story you alleged that "one of our problems is we've built our economy, especially the 73 percent of it now down in Clark County, on gaming, and overwhelmingly, gaming and hospitality does not need, sad to say, a well educated work force."

If I had not seen you making these comments on camera, I would not have believed they were coming from a Regent for the Nevada System of Higher Education. What on earth were you thinking about or are you simply unaware of the workforce needs of the state's largest industry and its strong record of support for Nevada's system of public education?

Your fellow Regents and the Chancellor know that Nevada's casinos and resorts are the most sophisticated in the world and that, as the industry has evolved, so has the need for a highly educated work force. These workers are pivotal to the gaming and hospitality industry in developing and implementing the tremendous advances that have taken place in areas such as theater and show production, gaming machine development, casino floor surveillance, and a whole host of back of the house functions necessary to effectively market and manage some of the most sophisticated businesses and facilities in the world. If you would just review the University System's course listings, you would see a clear reflection of the industry's need for a skilled and educated workforce.

Gaming pioneers like Bill Boyd have invested in the UNLV School of Law because of his belief that a strong legal foundation is paramount to a healthy community. The Fertitta Family made one of the earliest and largest commitments to Nevada State College because the Fertittas believe that an institution that trains more teachers and nurses is good for the community. The Harrah's Foundation has donated millions to UNLV because it knows a strong research university is critical to Nevada's economy. MGM MIRAGE has funded one of the largest scholarship programs in state history to ensure that more Nevadans receive a college degree than ever before.

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I would hope that before you again expound on what gaming does and does not value, you take some time to educate yourself about the state's largest industry, its workforce needs, and its record of support for education. Talk to a student in an engineering school about the skills necessary to develop slot machines, a student in an economics school about the application of marginal pricing theory to hotel room pricing, or a business school student about the public reporting requirements of gaming companies registered with the SEC. I am sure they will tell you that they are advancing their skills and knowledge to better their lives through future employment and that it would be great if they can find a challenging job here, at home, with Nevada's gaming industry.

Sincerely,



William Bible  
President

c: Chancellor Jim Rogers, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Members, Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Board of Directors, Nevada Resort Association (via FAX)