

LATE MATERIAL

MEETING DATE 4-18-13

ITEM # 7-E



Nevada Association of Counties

304 South Minnesota Street

Carson, City, NV 89703

775-883-7863

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March 25, 2013

Marc Johnson
President
University of Nevada, Reno
Clark Administration 200
1664 N. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89557-001

Dear President Johnson:

On behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties Board of Directors thank you for attending their March 22nd meeting to present the proposed new organizational structure of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CBNR).

Later in the meeting the Board engaged in a lengthy discussion and voted unanimously to oppose the reorganization. The Board was concerned that the new organization would negatively impact the ability of UNCE to provide the myriad services to citizens in their counties. It was the position of the Board that UNCE's other programs - natural resources, children, youth and families, health and nutrition, horticulture and community development, are as important as agriculture. Members understood that the proposal might enhance collaboration between UNCE and CABNR; however, they were not convinced that there would be a similar level of collaboration between UNCE and other colleges, thus resulting in non-agriculture programs being marginalized under the new organization. The Board also expressed concern that under the proposed organization there would be no incentive to restore the recent cuts to UNCE's budget and that it might even lead to a further reduction of their general funds. As a result of the recent budget cuts county property taxes are now the largest source of revenues for UNCE.

For nearly 100 years Nevada's counties have placed a high value on their partnership with Cooperative Extension to fund programs that connect citizens to UNR and NACO stands ready to work with you to strengthen that partnership. The NACO Board greatly appreciates your leadership at the University of Nevada, Reno and trusts that their position regarding the UNCE organization will be given due consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fontaine
Executive Director

Cc: NACO Board of Directors