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Office of the Governor

June 17, 2011

The Honorable Ross Miller
Secretary of State
Capitol Building
101 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Assembly Bill 578 of the 76th Legislative Session

Dear Secretary Miller:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Assembly Bill 578, which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to the Legislature; providing for the establishment of Joint Interim Standing Committees of the Legislature; specifying the powers and duties of the Joint Interim Standing Committees; repealing various statutory committees; assigning certain powers and duties of repealed statutory committees to the Joint Interim Standing Committees; making various other changes relating to interim legislative activity; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

This bill amends existing law to provide for nine Joint Interim Standing Committees of the Legislature, each with an extensive membership component and a budget for travel and per diem expenses. These committees are empowered to review and discuss issues within their jurisdiction, and to call witnesses, prepare reports, and submit proposed legislation to each regular session of the Nevada Legislature. In short, this statutory scheme creates an interim session of the legislative body proper, meeting in joint committees that exactly mirror the regular workings of a legislative session.

The people of Nevada have long provided for limited legislative sessions, occurring only once each biennium or at such times of special need as the governor may decide. In addition, Nevada already provides for the Legislative Commission which has the following powers and duties pursuant to NRS 218E.175:

(a) Assist the Legislature in retaining status coordinate with the Executive and Judicial Branches of State Government.

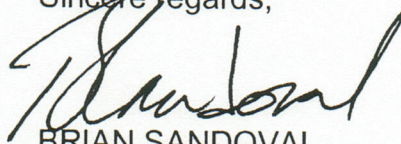
(b) Investigate and inquire into subjects upon which the Legislature may act by the enactment or amendment of statutes, governmental problems, important issues of public policy or questions of statewide interest.

(c) Assure that the most effective use is made of the audit, fiscal, legal and research services and facilities provided by the Legislative Counsel Bureau to the Legislature and its members.

(d) Coordinate and oversee interim studies and other legislative committees meeting in the interim between regular legislative sessions.

This existing framework is adequate to the interim work of Nevada's citizen legislature. Assembly Bill 578 takes Nevada precipitously close to annual sessions of its legislative body, or at the very least to full-time service by its members. Because this bill encroaches upon the Constitutional restrictions imposed by the people of this state in limiting legislative power, I exercise my constitutional grant of authority to veto AB 578 and return it to you without my signature and without my approval.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

Enclosure

cc: *The Honorable Brian Krolicki, President of the Senate (without enclosure)*
 David A. Byerman, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
 Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
 Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)