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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: Senate Bill 304 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

Dear Secretary Miller:

I am herewith forwarding to you, for filing within the constitutional time limit and without my approval, Senate Bill 304, which is entitled:

AN ACT relating to redistricting; creating, contingent upon voter approval, a sixth ward for the City of Reno; requiring, contingent upon voter approval, that the candidates for Supervisor in Carson City and for Council Member in the City of Henderson, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks be voted upon in a primary or general election only by the registered voters of the ward that a candidate seeks to represent; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

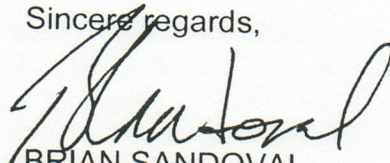
This bill revises the Charter of the City of Reno by replacing the office of Councilman at large with a sixth Council Member elected from a designated ward. The bill also requires Carson City and the Cities of Henderson, Reno and Sparks to place on the ballot for the 2012 general election the question of whether to amend their respective charters to provide for a ward system for the election of Supervisors or Council Members (as appropriate), such that they must be elected by only the registered voters of the ward they seek to represent.

I do not veto this bill on the merits of ward elections. Rather, the bill contains what appears to be a technical error with regard to the change from electing a Reno Councilman at large to electing a Council Member solely from a ward. Specifically, the person elected in 2012 will serve for a term of four years, yet – if the proposed ward election changes are approved by the voters at that same election – another person

must be elected to the same seat in 2014. Under Section 14 of the bill, the incumbent Council Member at large who holds office on July 1, 2013 will be deemed to represent only the new ward for the remainder of his or her term of office, which could result in double representation in that ward when a new person is elected in 2014. The bill drafters made attempts to reconcile these conflicts, as well as unclear language concerning residency, but I find that the provisions of Sections 8, 9 and 14 of the bill remain too much in conflict. On these grounds, the bill appears to be confusing and inoperable.

Because Senate Bill 304 poses too many challenges for election officials, candidates, and the voters themselves, I exercise my constitutional grant of authority to veto the bill 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)*