



THE CHAMBER

Reno·Sparks·Northern Nevada

May 14, 2014

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the members of The Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern Nevada, we urge you to support the reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program by sponsoring S. 2244.

As you are well aware, tourism is a vital component of our economic vitality in Northern Nevada and across the state. Our members have been through some very tough times in recent years and most signs are pointing to a recovery, although a slow one. Our gaming industry, the largest private employers in Washoe County, knows that in order to stay competitive, they need to stay new and fresh by upgrading their facilities and offerings. We know that with gaming now spread across the United States, it is going to take a strong effort by all of us to keep our tourism product unique and competitive.

That means capital renewal projects. And ever since the horrific events of September 11, 2001, insurance companies have required large complexes that could be considered terror targets to carry terrorism risk insurance. These include hotels, casinos, hospitals, entertainment venues, concert facilities, office complexes, shopping centers, and institutions of higher education.

The private market cost of this extra coverage is usually too great for any one employer to afford, so the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program allows for affordability and stability and for continued economic growth and job creation. It also protects taxpayers by limiting the federal government's liability in any potential losses and no money has ever been paid out since the program was implemented. It is truly a safeguard against a very unlikely event that would allow our economy to keep functioning.

The reauthorization of this program safeguards current job providers and lays the foundation for future growth in Nevada and across the nation. Your support for S. 2244 is critical.

Thank you for your service to Nevada and our country. Please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Tray Abney
Director of Government Relations