



September 16, 2015

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

Dear Senator Heller:

As the largest business association in Nevada with member businesses of all sizes that employ close to 230,000 Nevadans, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the Jobs Originated through Launching Travel Act of 2015 (JOLT Act). The Las Vegas Metro Chamber appreciates your legislative efforts in the U.S. Senate by sponsoring and introducing this important economic development legislation not just for Nevada, but for the nation. Having advocated for the passage of the JOLT Act in the U.S. House of Representatives during our recent trip to Washington, D.C., we are pleased that the U.S. Senate also will be considering this important legislation, thanks to your leadership.

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber supports federal legislation that promotes, strengthens and enhances our local and national economy. Specifically, the JOLT Act would promote the expansion of the international tourism and business travel sector by effectively addressing inefficiencies that exist in the current visa processing system that are currently putting our nation at a disadvantage when it comes to our competitiveness in international business and leisure travel.

One of the most significant challenges facing international tourists traveling to the United States is the visa process and entry experience. The United States cannot allow these inefficiencies to hamper economic growth and job creation. Rather, Congress should support innovative legislation such as the JOLT Act which will increase the market share of international travelers to the United States, while ensuring security measures are maintained. The Las Vegas Metro Chamber supports many of the provisions of the JOLT Act such as enabling the U.S. State Department to implement a videoconferencing pilot program for visa interviews, encouraging the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to increase efforts to integrate information from multiple U.S. government systems and ensuring the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security has the ability to expand the eligibility of the Visa Waiver Program. These changes would result in additional international travel to the United States which, in turn, will support increases in exports, jobs creation and revenue.

Las Vegas is considered to be one of the leading international business and tourism destination cities in the world. Southern Nevada welcomes more than 41 million tourists annually and has a population of nearly two million people. In 2014, the total economic impact of tourism was approximately \$45 billion, supporting 43 percent of the region's gross domestic product and 364,000 jobs, nearly half of the total local workforce.

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This legislation would provide Las Vegas with an important tool to bolster its ability to remain globally competitive and expand opportunities to attract international visitors. Thank you for enabling the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce to offer its support. If we can be of any assistance or provide you with additional information, please feel free to contact us at 702.641.5822.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristin McMillan". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Kristin McMillan
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hugh Anderson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Hugh Anderson
Government Affairs Committee, Chairman