



## NEVADA FIREARMS COALITION

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REFERENCE: SB 82-Prohibits the Board of Wildlife Commissioners from authorizing the hunting of black bears.

Dear Chairman Ford,

The Nevada Firearms Coalition is dedicated to the safe use of firearms for self-defense, competition, recreation and hunting. We are a Nevada grassroots organization representing the firearms owners of Nevada. We are also the State Association for the National Rifle Association, and a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

We are requesting that this letter be placed in the official record as our opposition to SB 82 for the following reasons:

- Wildlife Management is a science that is performed by field biologists of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. These wildlife managers perform field studies and make recommendations to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners for the best practices of managing wildlife.
- Hunting is a valid management tool to control and manage wildlife populations. When wildlife populations are unmanaged, animals over populate. The primary predator of black bears is male black bears. Without management of their populations there will be increasing conflicts between humans and bears, and the potential for density dependent diseases to decimate the bear population. These comments are factual and based on actual occurrences.
- There is an 11% tax on firearms and ammunition (Pittman Robertson Act) that is collected by the Federal Government and passed through to the states as "Federal Aid to fish and wildlife" grants. Without the ability to manage the bear populations Nevada will lose federal funding for the black bear management program.

In summary, wildlife should be managed by the professionals. That is why the Board of Wildlife Commissioners was established by the State Legislature. It is a working system; you should be protecting their ability to manage wildlife for the good of the citizens of the State of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Don Turner, President