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Nevada Development Authority's July Breakfast Featured California Senator George Runner

July 18, 2008 – Nevada Development Authority's July breakfast meeting featured California Senator George Runner. Distinguished guests at the breakfast also included Governor Jim Gibbons, state senators Joyce Woodhouse and Michael Schneider, as well as state assemblymen Morse Arberry and Mo Denis. Senator Runner addressed NDA members, guests and media with a keynote speech entitled "California's tax and spend problem and how that drives business away into the waiting arms of Nevada and Arizona."

Senator Runner was elected to the California state senate in 2004 and defines his priorities as focusing on improving economic prosperity and business growth, promoting educational excellence and family preservation for all Californians. Senator Runner is the chair of the Senate Republican Caucus and proudly serves the 17th District.

Runner opened his remarks with the comment that it was "...kind of a strange place for a California senator to be." He described one of his primary jobs in the legislature as ensuring California's work environment and business environment stay healthy, and therefore standing before the Nevada Development Authority was a "great irony." Alluding to that business environment, Runner continued by saying, "...it is clear, what you have continued to focus on and continued to preserve in the state of Nevada, is something that California has lost."

Senator Runner related there are many dynamics they face in their state that make ensuring the health of the work and business environment very difficult, offering the example of California as a caution to other states. He said, "Our burdensome business regulations and unnecessary laws are chasing many of our good businesses out of the state." The first of these are taxes, with California's tax climate ranked 47th in the nation according to the Tax Foundation. He described California being "...encumbered by some of the highest tax laws in the nation, including a nearly nine percent corporate income tax rate." He also said Californians face higher taxes on average by far, including personal income, sales and capital gains tax.

On top of the taxes, Runner described the workplace regulations imposed on business as being particularly onerous. Laws relating to the 40-hour workweek, employee breaks and minimum wage topped his list. The Senator told of his parents coming from New York to California some fifty years ago, and how many others had moved there for the great opportunity and promise California presented, bypassing states like Nevada. Speaking of the last fifty years, Runner said, "...in many ways, we have squandered the great gift that we have been given...So much so, that there is this incredible migration, back to those deserts that many people drove right through." He pointed to the fact that this migration of people and business occurs as a result of much planning

and effort in states like Nevada, sighting that the impetus for his being there today was the “California Tax Bear” advertising and public relations campaign launched and executed by the NDA.

Senator Runner closed his address by again cautioning Nevada against making mistakes similar to those made in California, encouraging us to continue fostering our business-friendly environment.

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