



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY CIVIL AIR PATROL

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Chairman Dennis Nolan
Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security
P. O. Box 82249
Las Vegas, Nevada 89180-2249

Dear Senator Nolan:

As you know the Nevada Wing of the United State Air Force Auxiliary/Civil Air Patrol (USAFA/CAP) provides services to various entities of state and local governments. These services include, but are not limited to, Search and Rescue, Homeland Security and Counter Drug operations.

The CAP is an all volunteer force and proud to serve.

During the recent Steve Fossett SAR Mission our members provided countless hours of volunteer time at no cost to the State of Nevada, Lyon County and the Office of Emergency Management.

Unlike the National Guard, many of our members incurred considerable debt flying their own aircraft and taking annual leave or leave of absence from their jobs. I did not hear one complaint from any of our members, however, I know that this mission caused some financial hardships.

Attached for your consideration is the Great State of Colorado's House Bill 08-1097 which was passed by their legislature and signed into law by Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. Luckily revised statues are not copyrighted and the attached could easily be amended so that LCB would not have to reinvent the wheel. This legislation would relieve the financial hardship of CAP members and in doing so would increase our ability to call upon members to volunteers.

Dennis in this post 9/11 era the USAFA/CAP stands ready to meet the operational needs of our Great State. I think that it would be appropriate for Nevada to pass similar legislation. As Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security I believe that you are the appropriate legislator to submit the Bill Draft Request, if you concur with the need for this legislation.

I also believe that this is a nonpartisan issue. I do not think that this would have a great financial impact. Most SAR missions span a shorter period of time and take less manpower. The Fossett mission was rather unusual. The majority of the missions that we fly for state and local agencies normally consist of one aircraft, one or two pilots and possibly an observer.

Thank you for your consideration and I stand ready to assist you as needed.

Very respectfully,



Ron Cuzze
Lt Col, USAFA/CAP

Cc (w/o attachment):

Governor Jim Gibbons
Senate Majority Leader William J. Raggio
Speaker Barbara Buckley
Director Jerry Hafen, Department of Public Safety
Director Frank Siracush, Office of Emergency Management
Colonel Ralph Miller, Commander, Nevada Wing

** Copy of Colorado House Bill 08-1097 available upon request.