



City of South Lake Tahoe

"making a positive difference now"

March 15, 2011

Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Sub-Committee
Nevada State Capitol, Room 3137
Carson City, Nevada

Re: TRPA Funding

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

My name is Bruce Grego, I have been a resident of South Lake Tahoe since 1967 and I have been a practicing attorney for over 30 years. Two years ago, I was elected to the South Lake Tahoe City Council.

You have heard the testimony from Joanne Marchetta, the Executive Director of the TRPA, seeking funds from the State of Nevada to support this agency.

I am requesting you reconsider her request, and not fund this agency.

Why?

We have an agency that is all powerful in connection with land use without any accountability to the people it regulates. Land use affects everyone's life in the Basin in a significant way from small business owners trying to improve their properties, to families trying to expand their homes, and to the elderly and the disabled seeking ADA improvements in the community. And of course these same policies affect elected local governments' ability to meet the needs of the People

I could tell you about the excessive and duplicated regulations, that the People of the Tahoe Basin must endure, and the years that they have spent trying to obtain permits. I could tell you that the regulations issued by the TRPA are not based upon sound science but on opinion and philosophy. I could tell you how TRPA's regulations have left my City with the designs of the late 1960s, while we attempt to compete with other recreational areas with more current and modern design. I could tell you how TRPA's regulations were the primary cause of why the Angora fire was able to spread so rapidly throughout our community. I could tell you that in the last 42 years of their occupation, TRPA permitted over a dozen invasive species into Lake Tahoe, and how they have ignored shoreline pollution. I could also tell you how some TRPA's plans for the Tahoe Basin, have been set aside by Federal Courts.

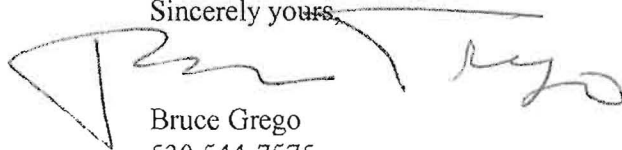
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But what I can tell you is that the TRPA has deprived me and all the other citizens of the Tahoe Basin of their civil rights. The People of the Tahoe Basin have effectively been deprived of their rights to vote, their right to chose leaders who govern them, the rights to referendum and initiative, and the rights to recall. The majority of the board is not accountable to anyone. They are philosophers that rule over us with little regard to the socio-economic impacts they cause upon our community.

We have been deprived of due process of law. It makes no sense to hold public hearings conducted by persons that are not accountable, that are insulated from the checks and balance of a democratic government.

I need your help. We cannot hope to effect change in the manner in which TRPA makes decisions unless we change the Compact that created the TRPA. Clearly, one way of achieving this goal is for the Nevada Legislature is to withhold funds and make it's release conditioned upon requiring an establishment of an elected Board, elected by the People of the Basin. Please investigate, examine for yourselves the problems caused by TRPA, and the need to establish representative government.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Grego', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Grego
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