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January 31, 2011

Mr. Scott Raines, Chairman
Nevada Wildlife Commission Members
1100 Valley Road
Reno NV 89523

Dear Chairman Raines and Members of the Nevada Wildlife Commission,

I wish to bring to your attention my support for waterfowl hunting changes proposed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) under Agenda Item 21. These changes were initiated at the request of waterfowl hunters in northeast Nevada and we have worked with the NDOW to develop the proposed changes from a mutual interest to increase waterfowl hunting opportunity in Nevada.

The first topic under Agenda Item 21 is to establish a third waterfowl hunt zone encompassing northeast Nevada. This zone was requested by waterfowl hunters to increase waterfowl hunting opportunity in this part of the state where the effective hunting season is shortened due to the early onset of freezing weather and consequent departure of waterfowl. Three alternative zones are proposed. My primary support is for Alternative #1 which includes the counties of Elko, White Pine, Eureka, and Lander in a third zone. As a second choice I also support Alternative #2 (Elko and White Pine counties). Creation of a third waterfowl hunt zone will allow an earlier opening date and not only provide increased waterfowl hunting opportunities for waterfowl hunters residing in these four counties but for all Nevada waterfowlers since it effectively increases the length of the waterfowl hunting period in Nevada when combined with the hunting seasons for the other two zones.

The second topic under Agenda Item 21 is to expand the tundra swan hunt area to include all portions of Nevada except for Elko and White Pine counties. The expansion area would increase tundra swan hunting opportunities by allowing the harvest of tundra swan under the current permit system across a larger area of the state. Importantly, the proposed expanded hunt area continues to exclude correctly both Elko and White Pine counties from the harvest of tundra swans to protect the resident population of trumpeter swans in Ruby Valley. I support the expansion of the tundra swan hunt area so long as the provision to exclude Elko and White Pine counties remains as part of the proposal.

As an avid and passionate Nevada waterfowler, among other hunting pursuits, I strongly support the NDOW's desire to enhance waterfowl hunting opportunities within our state and especially in northeast Nevada due to limited hunting opportunities in our area. Having long enjoyed both abundant and less than abundant waterfowling

experiences in northeast Nevada, I believe strongly your positive support of the proposed changes under Agenda Item 21 will benefit all present and future Nevada waterfowlers.

In closing, at the February 2011 Commission meeting, I seek your support of Alternative #1 to establish a third waterfowl hunt zone and seek your support for the expansion of the tundra swan hunt area to all portions of Nevada except Elko and White Pine counties. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
/s/ Jeff Mackay
Ruby Valley

cc: All County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Waterfowl Association
Interested Waterfowl Hunters