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Box 18419
Reno, Nevada
89511-0419

May 4, 2011

Scott Raine, Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Chairman Raine:

It has come to our attention that the Board of Wildlife Commissioners will be reviewing and possibly adopting changes to Policy 50, Duck Stamp Procedures, at their meeting May 12 - 14, 2011. We respectfully request that you consider our input before enacting any changes in Policy 50.

Nevada Waterfowl Association has been the official sponsor of the duck stamp program for nearly 20 years. One of the policy changes that will come before the board is changing the composition of the judging panel from seven members, including two commissioners, to a total of five judges, three of which would be commissioners. In January 2010, the 17 member NWA board voted unanimously and adamantly to oppose such a change. Early last year, a letter was prepared and sent to the wildlife commission stating our reasons for opposing this change. It was apparent at the last commission meeting that the commission's committee failed to even review the letter before rendering an opinion.

Although it was not voted upon at that time, many members of our board felt that if the commission adopts the proposed changes, NWA may be forced to no longer sponsor the competition because of the imbalance in the judging panel.

In addition, it appears that the board will consider requiring the winning artist to post a \$3,000 bond as a condition of winning the contest. The matter of charging an entry fee and/or requiring a fee from the winning artist for printing purposes was discussed at two recent meetings of our board. Although no formal action was taken by the board, many felt that this requirement could, and probably would, result in a further reduction in the number of entries since the total duck stamp print sales would be far lower than the \$3,000 bond requirement.

Since our board did not choose to take any formal action to adopt the bond requirement and/or entry fee, I believe it is best to report that NWA recommends that Commission Policy 50 remain as currently written, without the proposed bond fee and reduction in the number of judges. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

James G. Mackedon, President
Nevada Waterfowl Association