

Southern Nevada Coalition for **WILDLIFE**

October 19, 2012

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representing
members of:

AN OPEN LETTER TO NEVADA' REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP:

Dear Republicans:

Have you ever been punched hard in the stomach?

If so, then you understand how thousands of sporting families throughout Nevada feel after learning that Governor Brian Sandoval recently appointed Karen Layne (president of the Las Vegas Humane Society) to Nevada's Wildlife Commission. While it was bad enough that Governor Sandoval would appoint someone who is adamantly (and publicly) opposed to hunting and trapping to the Wildlife Commission, it was even more offensive that Governor Sandoval appointed Ms. Layne as the "general public" representative on the Commission.

You may recall the rancor that resulted when former Governor Gibbons appointed Daryl Capuro to the Wildlife Commission as the "Conservation" representative. Well, in the eyes of Nevada's sporting families Governor Sandoval has just done the same thing. Karen Layne adamantly opposes hunting and trapping in Nevada, and she has not been bashful about sharing her views in numerous public appearances before the Nevada legislature, the Wildlife Commission and the Clark County Advisory Board for Wildlife. She no more represents the general public than Daryl Capuro represented the Conservation movement. It wasn't bad enough that the Governor ignored the dozens of qualified applicants who have proven through countless hours of dedicated volunteer service that they have the best interests of Nevada's wildlife at heart, he instead chose someone whose organization and personal agenda are to end all hunting and trapping in the United States.

What's more, the Governor's timing was almost as bad as his judgment. With less than two weeks before the elections, he has made great strides toward offending those in the sporting world – those who historically supported Republican politics and their candidates. But recent events, capped by the Governor's most recent faux pas, send a clear signal to Nevada's sporting families that their support – and their votes – are no longer needed or wanted. For instance, sporting families see Debbie Smith (D) spearheading a movement to establish a bipartisan sportsmen's caucus in the Nevada legislature for the first time in history. We see Democrats Tom Collins, Chris Giunchigliani and Larry Brown attending the Clark County Advisory Board for Wildlife meetings and having input at those meetings. **Republican leadership has been notably absent.** Last legislative session Democrat John Lee sponsored numerous bills easing the requirements for carrying concealed firearms. The Clark County Shooting Park came about much to the credit of Senator Harry Reid.

"Preserving Nevada's Wildlife Heritage Through Political Action, Education and Conservation"

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Desert
Bighorn
Sheep

Rocky
Mountain Elk
Foundation

Mule Deer
Foundation

Ducks
Unlimited

Las Vegas
Woods &
Waters

National Rifle
Association

Nevada
Trappers
Association

Wildlife
Habitat
Improvement
of Nevada
(WHIN)

Nevada
Firearms
Coalition

Las Vegas
Retriever
Club

Nevada
Wildlife
Federation

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And more

Last legislative session Democrat John Lee sponsored numerous bills easing the requirements for carrying concealed firearms. The Clark County Shooting Park came about much to the credit of Senator Harry Reid. Last legislative session Maggie Carlton, the Democratic Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee maintained a constant dialogue with Nevada's sportsmen over key legislation, even though her position was not necessarily popular with her own political base.

The Governor's ill advised choice in Commissioners comes at a time when the Wildlife Commission needs stronger leadership – not divisiveness. Recently the Commission has ignored *unanimous* recommendations by the 17 County Advisory Boards and limited black bear hunting in the Tahoe Basin, and also prohibited trapping in large areas of Clark County. The sporting families of Nevada were hoping the Governor's upcoming appointment would show a willingness to listen to these Advisory Boards, but Ms. Layne's appointment will insure that the voice of sportsmen (who fund the majority of Nevada's wildlife management) will be ignored, while those who oppose consumptive uses are in the position of deciding the future of Nevada's wildlife resources.

But you needn't worry from here out – the Sporting families of Nevada have gotten the message loud and clear. Nevada's Democrats appear to be willing to work with sportsmen, while our Republican governor appoints someone who opposes consumptive uses to the very Commission charged with managing Nevada's wildlife. Can the Republican leadership of this state right this terrible wrong? If not, they shouldn't be surprised in two weeks, and in the future, when Nevada Republicans can no longer count on sportsmen for their support.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN NEVADA COALITION
FOR WILDLIFE