



## **The Nevada Policy Research Institute**

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### **NPRI analyst: Stakeholders group is made up of cherry-picked special interests**

LAS VEGAS, NV - Geoffrey Lawrence, a fiscal policy analyst at the Nevada Policy Research Institute, today offered the following public comments to the IFC Subcommittee to Conduct a Review of Nevada's Revenue Structure.

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Geoffrey Lawrence and I am a fiscal policy analyst at the Nevada Policy Research Institute. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today and express my concern over the Nevada Vision Stakeholders Group.

It is apparent to everyone here that no stakeholder group can accurately reflect the interests of all Nevadans. As such, this stakeholder group will merely be a collection of cherry-picked special interests.

The group includes no explicit taxpayer advocate. It includes no explicit small-business advocate. It is composed primarily of public employees, union representatives and other recipients of state funds as well as large gaming and mining interests.

The recommendations that are likely to come out of this group are highly predictable. Those members who are dependent on tax dollars for their livelihood will vote to further enrich themselves, while representatives from the gaming and mining industries will ensure that someone else bears the higher tax burden.

This would simply amount to a form of predation on regular Nevadans who would be exposed to a higher tax burden. Regular Nevadans have no voice and no protection from this group.

The only voice that regular Nevadans have in the policymaking process is the vote that they cast for state legislators. However, when elected officials defer their policymaking powers to an unelected and unaccountable group of ivory-tower elites, they have effectively disenfranchised the majority of individuals.

Thank you.

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