

TO: Assembly Committee on Revenue

Meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2025

FROM: Doug Unger, Professor/Writer; Co-Founder, Creative Writing International Program,
UNLV (affiliated with the Black Mountain Institute)

RE: **Support for AB 219**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Support for AB 219

Doug Unger, Professor and Writer, and Co-Founder, Creative Writing International Program,
UNLV (affiliated with the Black Mountain Institute)

Thank you Chairs Backus, Considine, and Members of the Committee for the hearing for AB 219, a bill designed to provide a more stable source of funding for the Nevada Arts Council, one of the most essential, grass roots supporting organization for the arts in our state. The NAC provides grants to artists plus community-facing events for the arts, urban and rural. The proposal to set aside a mere 1% of the existing 9% from the portion of the non-casino-resort “live entertainment” tax for the Nevada Arts Council can make all the difference for its sustainability. This will help the NAC continue to discover and highlight Nevada artists and writers and their worthy projects into the future. AB 219 makes financial sense, too—studies show that every dollar spent on the arts impacts out by an average of 2.5 times through the local economy. Still, the money impact does not compare to the validation, encouragement, and energy for perseverance that an NAC grant provides for the developing artist or to the sage master of an indigenous or traditional art who is passing knowledge down to succeeding generations. This impact for the individual artist is incalculable, and constitutes the most enduring treasure for our state. Thank you.

