



February 26, 2014

Dear Governor Sandoval and Attorney General Cortez Masto:

We, the undersigned, applaud your decision to halt the state's defense of the constitutional amendment that excludes loving and committed same-sex couples from marriage. As has been noted in the press coverage of your decision, Nevada's ban on marriage is no longer legally defensible.

We agree. And a majority of Nevadans agrees as well. There is no rational or reasonable justification for denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry.

Freedom means freedom for everyone. Liberty and the right to pursue happiness are core American values. If adults can pay taxes, vote, serve in the military and start a business, then they shouldn't be told it is illegal to marry the person they love.

Moreover, allowing same-sex couples to marry will boost our state's economy and business competitiveness. Nevada companies must attract the best and brightest. Unless we demonstrate a commitment to diversity in the workplace, we will risk losing top talent to other regions. The muddled patchwork of the current laws creates uncertainty, inefficiency and waste for businesses – the freedom to marry will save Nevada companies money.

This issue is as simple as the Golden Rule: singling out one group of people for unfair treatment is not how we do things in Nevada.

Abiding by the law – and understanding when the law has evolved – isn't always easy. It requires careful study and thoughtful reflection. And it takes courage. By reevaluating our state's position in the *Sevcik v. Sandoval* lawsuit you demonstrated such courage in your words and in your actions.

Thank you,

*Hugh Anderson*

*Josh Miller*

*Diana Bennett*

*Monte & Susan Miller*

*Jim & Dani Denton*

*Thom Reilly*

*Jan Jones Blackhurst*

*Sig Rogich*

*Fletcher and Annemarie Jones*

*Matt Saltzman*

*Gary Loveman*