

Good morning commissioners. I am Ganesh Kadam from Henderson, and I am also a diverse business owner. Recently Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) released the 2021 Disparity Study, and the study results are striking. The disparity study is now available on NDOT's website. I would like to bring commissioners attention to the results of this disparity study. Also, on May 25th NDOT had organized a public meeting to discuss the disparity study results. The recording of this public meeting is available on YouTube. This meeting and study clearly sum up the challenges and issues faced by the diverse business enterprises in our state. I would like to bring up some important items discussed in the meeting by the disparity study consultant to commissioners' attention. In the State of Nevada, the Disparity Ratio for FHWA Funded Contracts is 27.1% and State Funded Contracts is 23.4%. The disparity ratio less than 80% reflects the discriminatory market factors. If this is the condition at the NDOT even though there is a defined goal for utilization of diverse businesses, then I am sure the disparity ratio will be very less in other government agencies in the state of Nevada where there are no goals for utilization of diverse businesses. The study consultant pointed out in the meeting that the State of Nevada doesn't have any good diverse business feeder system. And the consultant is correct. Currently in the State of Nevada there are not many opportunities for minority-, women-, veteran-, disabled-, LGBTQ-, and disadvantaged business enterprises in the government contracts issued by Counties, Cities, Special Districts & State agencies. To ensure effective and equal participation of minority-, women-, veteran-, disabled-, LGBTQ-, and disadvantaged business enterprises participation in the government procurement such as public works, goods/supplies, services, and public/private partnerships, the government agencies in the State of Nevada need to implement a diverse business utilization plan. Also, there are many recommendations suggested in the study to improve this disparity ratio. I hope commissioners will review NDOT disparity study recommendations and will discuss some action items in upcoming meetings for increased participation of diverse businesses in the government agencies of the State of Nevada. Thank you.

Good morning commissioners. I am Martin Johnson from Las Vegas, and I am also a diverse business owner. I agree with the speaker who just spoke before me. I would also like to bring Commissioners attention to similar issue. In last two years in the State of Nevada, multiple local government agencies issued large scale multi-million-dollar contracts. When I inquired with these agencies if they did any outreach program to diverse businesses for these multimillion dollar contracts and the response, I received was that the agency does not have a specific outreach program for diverse businesses and the agency encourages prime contractors to utilize diverse businesses for all aspects of the project. Also, one of the government agency's websites specifically mention that "No mandates currently exist in Nevada to utilize diverse business in their procurement. As a member of the Regional Business Development Advisory Committee, the agency is required to report utilization of diverse businesses to the state legislature for evaluation. Increasing diverse-supplier participation helps avoid state mandates. As a public agency, we operate under NRS Chapter 332 and NRS Chapter 338 purchasing statutes." As NRS Chapter 332 and NRS Chapter 338 does not mandate the government agencies in the State of Nevada to utilize the diverse business utilization in their procurement, there is no initiative from all government agencies in State of Nevada to utilize diverse businesses in their procurement. I hope commissioners will look at the data for the utilization of diverse businesses in the procurement of Counties, Cities, Special Districts, and state agencies in the State of Nevada and will suggest appropriate changes in NRS Chapter 332 and NRS Chapter 338 for increased participation of diverse businesses. Thank you.