

2/26/2026

Dear Members of the City of Reno Council and Honorable Mayor,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Board of Trustees of the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority, effective immediately.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for your trust and belief in me to represent you fairly and to work toward improving and helping to grow our amazing airport with such a phenomenal board of trustees, who I greatly respect and was lucky to serve with. I have so many friends on this board who are working their hardest to make this airport the best in the nation. It was truly an honor to be appointed and entrusted with such an important responsibility to our region's travelers, businesses, and residents.

As an eleven-year resident of Reno, I have been privileged to serve our community in numerous capacities, including on the City's Charter Committee; the governing board and foundation of Doral Academy of Northern Nevada; the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce; the Nevada Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce; the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority; Washoe County School District Superintendent Search Committee; Community Health Alliance; the Nevada Electronic Health Information Advisory Group; and through service at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was in that same spirit of service that I accepted the opportunity to serve on the Airport Authority board.

From day one, I committed myself to work to improve board policies and procedures and enhance transparency and accountability so trustees could understand all facets of airport operations and ensure fidelity to our mission for the traveling public. Unfortunately, for the sake of the work I do in Nevada and due to what has felt like an apparent targeting of me—and others on the board—through retaliation and harassment by RTAA leadership, I no longer believe I can be effective in inspiring meaningful change.

On day one, at the RTAA retreat, I was met with hostility from RTAA leadership who read to the room new board policies, assumptively adopted to isolate myself and the other new board members. From that point on, at each iteration when I raised concerns, my voice was silenced by the Chief Legal Officer and her staff. I questioned why certain companies were receiving no-bid awards, only to have my concerns dismissed. I questioned why we have not seen audits on the construction job at the airport and the status of air service, only to have mine my fellow trustee's questions ignored. We raised seriously concerns around a concerning breach-of-contract project with a vendor, again to be pulled into closed session and told we are not to discuss it. I worked

for good board governance and requested that when conflicts of interest arose, the Chief Legal Officer provide outside legal counsel to board members; that request was never granted. I requested pre-meeting caucuses to ensure trustees were properly briefed on significant actions before us; that request was also never granted. I challenged instances where staff appeared to violate Robert's Rules of Order and Nevada Open Meeting laws, only to have these concerns dismissed.

I have witnessed a culture of hostility and retaliation aimed at anyone who dared to hold leadership accountable. My adherence to law and proper governance procedures seemed to strike a nerve with leadership. I have experienced what I can only describe as an environment of toxicity and retaliation. When questions regarding my qualifications to serve, rather than call me, or approach me, the Chief Legal Officer ignored my rights as a board member and never once worked to remedy the situation one on one, which appears to me as another effort of retaliation towards me. When I perceived bias and prejudice from the Chief Legal Officer toward my role as a trustee, I requested independent and unbiased legal counsel to assist me in fulfilling my duties. Rather than granting that request, the Chief Legal Officer issued a lengthy justification of her actions claiming to reject my request. This again points to a concern about why the board of trustees don't have their own independent and unbiased legal counsel.

It is with regret that I step down without being able to fulfill fully the reform-oriented role I had hoped to serve as a trustee. I remain grateful for the opportunity you provided me and for the confidence you placed in my ability to represent you and our community.

I would offer one word of caution: I sincerely hope that the next appointee is empowered to serve in a professional and respectful environment. However, without meaningful cultural and governance changes, and true independent legal counsel, they may encounter the same toxic conditions that I, and many other trustees, experience.

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Thank you again for the privilege of serving our city and region.

Respectfully,



Edward Ableser Ph.D.