

A Message from Commissioner Scott Kipper



As the Nevada Division of Insurance moves forward in its strides to become a more effective and proactive agency, I want to share with you what the Division is doing to be more communicative, educational and efficient.

Integral in our efforts to move the Division forward is the creation of the Fund for Insurance Administration and Enforcement through Senate Bill 426, which was passed by the 2009 Nevada Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jim Gibbons. This fund moves the Division of Insurance out from the state's General Fund to an agency that is now self-funded. Funding is now from additional fees that are assessed on those entities that we regulate, including a \$60 assessment for each new license and license renewal for producers.

Also part of this new funding was the request for (and granting of) a number of new positions. The additional staff will make us more efficient and enable us to better serve all Nevadans. It is of note here to mention that, for the most part, the entire insurance industry understood the need for the Division to be self-funded and supported this legislation wholeheartedly.

The Division's first ever Insurance Industry Day was an example of how the Division is committed to expanding our educational outreach. Division staff spent the day presenting information to attendees on how they and their operations can become more efficient in their interaction with the Division, which in turn will make the Division more efficient. Attendees also took advantage of the opportunity to sit down individually with Division staff and discuss issues that were important to their companies. These sessions were extremely well received, with many of the roughly 150 attendees seizing the moment to have face-to-face conversations with their state regulators.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members of the insurance industry who joined us at our event. I would also like to extend our very warm thanks to the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents and the Nevada Surplus Lines Association, whose guidance and support were essential in making Industry Day a success. We appreciate the enthusiasm of our participants and look forward to opening even more doors in the areas of communication and education in 2010.

We have many more projects underway as we continue to build a more efficient and responsive agency. We are in the process of updating our web site, doi.state.nv.us, in hopes of improving the information available to our stakeholders. Similarly, we currently are working on developing an external newsletter that will keep our stakeholders informed of the latest regulatory news. With communication and education in mind, we also are continuing to focus our outreach toward consumers -- especially as hot topics such as health care reform, fraud and the financial crisis continue to make national headlines.

Clearly, there is no shortage of work for us here at the Division. However, I firmly believe that we've got a fantastic, professional, knowledgeable and enthusiastic team that is not afraid of the challenges that lie before them. And with communication and participation from you, our stakeholders, there is no doubt that we will achieve our goals. Thanks for your support!