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<u>Rick Spees</u> has spent over 40 years in Washington serving on the staff of the U.S. Senate, as a partner at Akerman LLP, and as chair of its Government Affairs and Public Policy Practice Group. He understands all the aspects of lobbying. He previously wrote a biographical chapter on his mentor *Paul Laxalt; Man of Political Independence,* in the book *The Maverick Spirit: Building the New Nevada.*