



Champs sur Marne, March 21, 2011

LAREG 11-ZA-005

From : Dr. Zuheir Altamimi

To: Drs. Milton Glick and Marc Johnson  
President's Office  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-001

**Letter of support for maintaining the necessary budget for the survival of Nevada  
Bureau of Mines & Geology, University of Nevada, Reno**

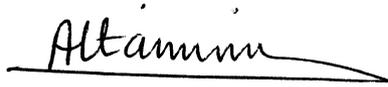
It came to my knowledge by my colleague, Professor Dr Geoffrey Blewitt, from Nevada Geodetic Laboratory (NGL), Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (NBMG), University of Nevada, Reno, that a severe budget cut is foreseen at over half of the NBMG's state budget. I take this grave decision, if it really happens, as a serious mistake that will undermine the fundamental research and development programs conducted at NBMG and NGL.

Professor Blewitt and his group (<http://geodesy.unr.edu>) are eminent scientists, well known and acknowledged worldwide for their significant contribution to Geodesy, a fundamental science that quantifies Earth changes in space and time. The outcome of their geodetic research has enormous applications in Earth science, ranging from secular variation in sea level, volcano monitoring, ground fluid withdrawal, plate tectonics, and earthquake cycle to tsunami warning systems.

I am more than astonished to hear this sad news that jeopardizes the NBMG existence, while Nevada is a thriving state with an abundance of minerals and geothermal potential, yet with serious geohazards for which NGL has developed advanced monitoring geodetic tools. The Basin And Range GEodetic Network (BARGEN) continuous GPS network is an essential example to quantifying seismic hazards for the proposed nuclear waste facility. Many other geodetic R&D projects and programs, undertaken by NGL (<http://geodesy.unr.edu>) have potential societal benefits. These projects are pertinent examples to follow by other geodetic laboratories around the world. A certain number of NGL projects are funded by federal grants, as for example the U.S. Department of Energy that funded the BARGEN project, demonstrating the well skilled and qualified NGL scientists to conduct research of fundamental importance. Therefore, it would be a dramatic decision to operate the proposed budget cut which will inevitably lead to the firing of staff, severely limit the NGL group's ability to continue their research projects and waste their huge investments built over years.

It goes without saying that I urge you to take all the possible measures to maintain the necessary level of budget for the survival of NBMG and NGL group, for the benefit of Nevada, USA and the international scientific community.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Altamimi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

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