

March 22, 2011

Dr Jeffrey S. Thompson

Dean, College of Science

MS-0424, University of Nevada

Dear Sir,

I am a semi retired US Geological Survey geologist with a 60-year history of geological studies in Nevada that included numerous interactions with earth scientists at the NBMG. I do not know the details of considerations to effect major cuts and reorganizations of the NBMG, but what I have heard is alarming.

From my perspective, it is unthinkable that one of the most mineral rich States in the United States can't find the resources through mineral severance taxes or other tax means to support a vibrant State geological department. The geologic mapping program at NBMG produces the fundamental tools needed for making wise policy decisions in all areas involving the earth sciences. That program and its ancillary petrologic, geochemical, geochronological, and geophysical activities currently engages some of the most competent people in the nation and should be preserved and, ideally, expanded. It's counter to the best interests of the citizens of Nevada to cut funding to the NBMG, and difficult to imagine how that organization could meet the needs of the State in the face of major budget cuts and reorganization. Not only does Nevada have great mineral potential, future intelligent decisions will be required in all areas of land use, hazards assessments, material storage, mineral extraction, water resources, and power generation, decisions that **require** the kinds of expertise provided by the highly qualified staff at the NBMG.

Respectfully,

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