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April 11, 2011

Dr. Milton Glick, President, and Dr. Marc Johnson, Provost
President's Office
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-001

Re: Letter of support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG)

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson:

I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. I am prompted by the proposal in early March by the University of Nevada to drastically cut NBMG's State funding and to fold it in with the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering. I understand that this is part of an effort by the University to meet budget targets proposed by the Governor and under consideration by the Legislature. I strongly hope that the proposal regarding NBMG is no longer under consideration. In my opinion, it is crucial to maintain the NBMG as an independent entity in Nevada with its abundance of minerals and geothermal potential as well as important geohazards.

I am the Director of the Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center and the California Spatial Reference Center at University of California, San Diego. I obtained my Ph.D. in Geodetic Science from Ohio State University in 1982. I am a Fellow of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). I have served as a member of the IAG Executive Committee, the IGS Steering Committee and Governing Board, and the Western North America Plate Boundary Observatory Steering Committee. I also served as an associate editor for Journal of Geophysical Research and served on the editorial board of Journal of Geodesy. I am the author/co-author of over 100 papers published in prestigious journals. My research group has explored numerous topics, including structural health monitoring, earthquake early warning, space geodesy, GPS meteorology, and earthquake hazards.

In these difficult times of financial crisis throughout the country, my university has also proposed painful spending cuts, such as closing several libraries on campus including the one at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where I work. These types of proposals are



prepared in haste, without considering the long-term harm to research, education, and economic health in the State. They also adversely affect researchers who are quite successful in securing continued Federal funding grants, and ensuring the financial and intellectual health of the University. I understand that the proposal concerning NBMG has the potential to significantly undermine or eliminate research at the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory at NBMG, led by my colleague Prof. Geoff Blewitt. I have worked with Prof. Blewitt for over 25 years and he has always been a leader in developing and applying geodetic techniques to crustal deformation studies on regional and global scales, mitigation of natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes, and engineering applications with important impacts on maintenance and development of infrastructure and economic growth. Prof. Blewitt has been very successful in building a world-class group of researchers under the umbrella of the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory, including Dr. William Hammond and Dr. Corné Kreemer.

NBMG scientists conduct research and publish reports that focus on the economic development, public safety, and quality of life in urban and rural areas of Nevada. They also contribute to the financial health of the University of Nevada by securing external funding from Federal grants. This is exemplified by Prof. Geoff Blewitt and his group of researchers at the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory at NBMG.

I believe that the proposal regarding NBMG is very misguided. It will mean that Nevada will lose money, squander economic opportunities, and fail to protect its citizens and visitors as well as it should. NBMG stimulates economic diversification and development in the State, saves lives, and protects property from natural disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yehuda Bock".

Yehuda Bock, Ph.D.
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