

Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia  
00143 Roma, Italy  
Via di Vigna Murata 605  
Tel: (0039) 06518601  
Fax: (0039) 0651860580  
URL: [www.ingv.it](http://www.ingv.it)



Istituto Nazionale di  
Geofisica e  
Vulcanologia

Rome March 21, 2011

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

Dear Drs Glick and Johnson,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the activity of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) in response to a possible cut of NBMG's state budget.

I have been visiting the Geodetic Laboratory of NBMG in Reno and have worked during the last years with Professor Geoff Blewitt. My research activity has greatly benefitted from the advances and findings made by Professor Blewitt and by his group. One of our graduate students recently spent a very productive period visiting the Geodetic Laboratory.

The research of Geoff Blewitt in the field of great (> 1000 GPS stations) geodetic network analysis has been of great help in our routine work here at the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV). Our aim is to map the accumulation of potentially seismic strain in Italy from the velocity of the GPS stations of the INGV GPS network in Italy. The similarity of tectonic regimes and scientific problems found in Nevada and Italy (crustal extension and normal faulting) makes the work of the NBMG Geodetic Laboratory of great importance and inspiration for the research carried out at INGV.

In my experience as a Fulbright and Royal Society fellow in USA and UK, I have been in contact with several research groups which are active in the analysis of geodetic data and the evaluation of strain accumulation and seismic hazard. In my opinion the ability to join great scientific insight and technological development in the analysis of Global Positioning System (GPS) observations, together with top-level geophysical/tectonic analysis, makes the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory one of the best geodetic groups in the academic community worldwide.

On the basis of my experience as Senior Researcher employed at the INGV (which is the main institution in Italy devoted to the mitigation of the seismic hazard), I am also convinced that a strong Geological Service in a state which abounds of minerals and geothermal potential, as well as important geohazards, is essential to foster the economic development and protect the community from Natural Hazards.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicola D'Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Nicola D'Agostino  
PhD, Senior Researcher  
Centro Nazionale Terremoti  
Istituto Nazionale Geofisica Vulcanologia  
Via Vigna Murata 605  
00143 Roma  
e-mail: nicola.dagostino@ingv.it