

**From:** David Fitch [mailto:dcfitch@igeologist.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 6:10 PM  
**To:** phickey@asm.state.nv.us  
**Subject:** Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology

Nevada Assemblyman Pat Hickey,

I understand that the University of Nevada, Reno has announced plans to cut the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) State funding from \$2.1 million per year to \$1.0 million.

As a professional geologist, voter and taxpayer, I am writing to inform you that this is a terrible mistake for two important reasons; it will stifle or suppress the economic recovery of Nevada and it will affect the public safety concerns regarding earthquakes and other geologic hazards.

Nevada is extremely fortunate to have world class gold mines operating, especially in these times, and has in my opinion excellent geologic potential for future major discoveries. In addition to highly regarded geologic potential the recently released independent report by the Fraser Institute ranks Nevada number two after Alberta in terms of "Policy Potential Index" (Favorability of government mining policies) throughout the world (link below).

One of the reasons for such a favorable ranking is the NBMG which has played a major role in attracting and supporting the investment in mining in Nevada through their extensive programs of geologic mapping, economic geology reports and modern digital availability of geologic and mining information. The NBMG is highly regarded among my peers in the mining industry. We should be supporting and encouraging this effort rather than cutting it.

To cut back the NBMG to a point where they are unable to function, will directly and immediately affect exploration investment in Nevada. If that is followed by Nevada adding some new mining taxes it will cost jobs and kill the goose so to speak. Mining companies cannot move an existing mine, but they can exit with their exploration budgets in a wink of an eye. We will move down the list of favorability and I worry about that. We have a good thing going for us here in Nevada; mining is providing jobs for anyone that wants to work.

I strongly urge you to not make further cuts to the already meager budget with which NBMG has accomplished very good work.

David C. Fitch