To the Board of Regents, University of Nevada (Chair, Vice Chair, Regent for District 8):

I am an exploration geologist who has successfully worked in the mineral exploration business in Nevada since 1959. Although I moved from Reno a few years ago, I continue to consult on Nevada projects, and continue to utilize the archives, services publications and research of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

I urge the Board of Regents not to force a major budget reduction on this organization. I have worked with several other State Geological Surveys, and can testify that the level of professionalism shown by the NBM&G is of the highest order. They are the best of the lot.

The mining business in Nevada would not be what it is today without the Bureau. The staff, with their extensive knowledge of Nevada geology and mineral deposits, the archives which are the most extensive and accessible of any similar state agency, ongoing geologic mapping projects, and research on exploration techniques are unexcelled. I believe the Bureau's input into mineral deposit research has played an extremely important part in discovery of most of the important deposits which are presently in production and contributing to Nevada's economy.

I suggest that dedication of a portion of the Net Proceeds of Minerals tax to support continuation of the Bureau's programs at the current level would be an appropriate move, and I urge that this be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Bureau, it's staff, and it's work.

Peter H. Hahn, C.P.G. - West Jordan, Utah