



William E. Holt

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16 March 2011

Drs. Glick and Johnson:

President's Office
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-001

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson:

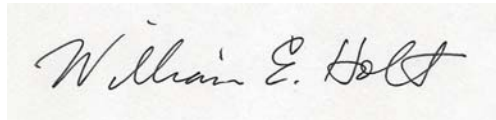
I was alarmed to learn of funding cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). This is an extreme concern and a huge blow to the entire scientific community. I believe that such a cut, and the loss of valuable research staff, would also be a blow to the Nation. I will explain why below.

First, the scientists within the NBMG conduct valuable research on the crustal deformation within the active plate boundary zone that passes through Nevada and eastern California. This group (Dr. Geoff Blewitt, Dr. Corné Kreemer, Dr. William Hammond) is very well known for their essential ongoing measurements using GPS technology. These measurements reveal active crustal deformation that constitutes a significant seismic hazard in Nevada. It is essential that this active and productive group continue to refine these measurements in order to provide necessary and appropriate information for better mitigation of these seismic hazards. Second, the research group there also conducts valuable research that benefits the quality of geodetic solutions globally. This work is important for an improved understanding of seismic hazards throughout the world. Third, the work with GPS in Nevada has revealed an important correlation between crustal strain rates geothermal energy resources. Drs. Geoff Blewitt and Corné Kreemer at the NBMG are responsible for this discovery. Energy resources, such as

geothermal energy, are of national importance. These resources represent an area of economic opportunity for the state of Nevada.

There are additional serious implications associated with this shortsighted cut. I firmly believe that the United States is going to need to be highly pro-active in order to stay competitive economically. President Obama's recent State of the Union Address stressed the urgency of a need for innovation in areas involving energy and technology. China is out-competing the world in the race to secure natural resources. This is well known. Nevada is characterized with rich mineral wealth and it therefore constitutes a national treasure. Proper stewardship of the natural resources in the state of Nevada is an important function of the NBMG. A very large part of the essential knowledge base can be found at the NBMG. It would be extremely short sighted to cut the NBMG, with implications of losing such a knowledge base that would take a generation or more to recover (with the possibility of no recovery). I therefore urge you to not cut the NBMG. A forward-thinking step would be to maintain this important institution to ensure proper stewardship of mineral and energy resources that are of strategic national importance, and in order to maintain an understanding of seismic hazards in the active plate boundary zone through Nevada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Holt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

William Holt

Professor of Geophysics

Chair, Board of Directors, University NAVSTAR Consortium (UNAVCO)

Fellow of the American Geophysical Union