



Department of Development Services Building Division

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Ronald L. Lynn, Director/Building Official • Gregory J. Franklin, Assistant Director

March 25, 2011

Regent James Dean Leavitt, Chairman
Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education
200 Hoover Avenue, Suite 150
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Sir:

As President of the Nevada Organization of Building Officials as well as Chairman of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, I want to encourage your continued support of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) and the important work they accomplish for the State of Nevada.

Nevada is the 3rd most seismically active state. Our risk exposure per the Federal Emergency Management Agency is potentially in the billions of dollars. The studies show that in addition to significant loss of life, tens of thousands would be injured or displaced with inestimable damage to tourism. NBMG's work on fault mapping, identifying geologic hazards, and seismic risk analysis has been invaluable to the growth of Nevada by enhancing our ability to:

- Adopt appropriate codes;
- Develop effective land use plans; and
- Enhance community preparedness for disaster.

Without the input of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council the promulgation of the surface fault rupture guidelines and the liquefaction study guidelines would not have been possible and the risks, both economic and life safety, to this state would have been greatly increased.

We have just to look at the recent earthquakes throughout the world and the tremendous loss of life to know that we need to be better prepared. As recently as 2008 Wells, Nevada suffered a 6.0 earthquake with the ruins still in evidence as a reminder of the damage that can occur in our own backyards. NBMG is leading the world in geodetic analysis, currently our best opportunity for analyzing the stress and strains of the earth to better enable establishing a warning system to anticipate the imminence of an earthquake. Not just the participation but the leadership that Dr. Jonathan Price has shown on the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has enabled the

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state to have a cogent response plan in the event of natural or manmade disasters. Without this federally accepted plan in place, County and City plans would not have been accepted or eligible for federal funding. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have come into the state through FEMA grants which have meant millions of dollars in economic opportunity.

I would be remiss if I did not mention NBMG's research which has stimulated ongoing growth in our mining industry, which has helped Nevada be the leader in economic mineral resources. The mapping, exploration and geologic analysis has also assisted in geothermal identification enhancing State initiatives for energy sustainability.

I know in this time of economic constraints the temptation is to cut costs equally across the board. However, it should be cautioned that when certain programs have such far reaching value and immediate return for the State of Nevada, we should consider all aspects before approaching a one-size-fits-all solution. The Bureau supplements the state with \$4 million in external grants. We stand to lose much of those grants if NBMG funding is cut by \$1.1 million.

In summary, every dollar spent on the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology yields \$2-\$4 in benefits for the State of Nevada. Therefore, as someone who has been involved for over 30 years in both the economic well being as well as the safety of the built environment and the citizens of the State of Nevada, I encourage you to consider continued funding of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Sincerely,



RONALD E. LYNN

Director/Building Official

RLL:gjs

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