



**San José State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**College of Science**

**Department of Geology**

One Washington Square  
San José, CA 95192-0102  
Voice: 408-924-5050  
Fax: 408-924-5053  
<http://geosun.sjsu.edu>

**The California State University:**  
Chancellor's Office  
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March 23, 2011

Dr. Jeffrey S. Thompson  
Dean, College of Science  
MS-0424, University of Nevada  
Reno, NV 89557 USA

Dear Dean Thompson:

I am writing you today to express my strong support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, and to ask that the University of Nevada-Reno do everything possible to maintain funding for the NBMG's important work. As faculty in the College of Science at a big state university (within the California State University system), I can honestly appreciate the challenge of fulfilling the mission of the College of Science at UNR in these lean economic times. With the fiscal challenges here in California, we too are faced with severe budget cuts and potentially layoffs.

As is clear from Dr. Price's open letter, the money that goes to support the NBMG is money well spent, and is a valuable investment for UNR and for the state of Nevada. The bureau has a long history of conducting cutting edge research that benefits students at UNR (many of whom are directly involved in the research activities of the NBMG) and the state of Nevada, which receives all of the economic upside of the materials produced by the bureau.

My main motivation in writing to you today is to tell you of the outstanding collaboration that I have had for over a decade with scientists at the Bureau. My graduate and undergraduate students have been working since 1999 in southern Nevada along the Colorado River corridor, an important and economically valuable region. During all of this time, and indeed before I arrived at San Jose State, I was involved in working closely with faculty and staff at NBMG, particularly Dr. James Faulds. He has served as a PI on numerous collaborative National Science Foundation proposals with me and other geologists doing work in this area. In his capacity as a research geologist at NBMG he has therefore leveraged additional federal dollars that have gone directly to support student research conducted in Nevada. His knowledge of the region is encyclopedic; no other professional geologist working in this area comes close to his understanding of all facets of the geology. In that regard, Jim is utterly vital to our work in this region. He has led numerous field trips with professionals and students at all levels, and spent months in the field doing geology and collaborating with all of us working in the region. His alacrity and dedication to mentoring his peers and students of all levels and backgrounds are rare. Other staff and faculty at NBMG over the years have also shown the same dedication and eagerness to engage with the broader educational community. A current graduate student of mine is about to finish an EDMAP project on the northern Highland Range as part of his Master's thesis (federal geologic mapping program) and will publish his mapping with NBMG. With NBMG's support we were able to tap into federal funds for this work, and because of the outstanding mentoring he received, he will deliver to

the NBMG a very good geologic map that will be useful in an area that has seen enormous growth over the last decade (the highway 95 corridor south of Las Vegas).

I simply cannot state strongly enough how important it is that the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology be able to continue its work, and that it receive adequate funding to do so. The scholarship and productivity of NBMG scientists benefits all the residents of Nevada and beyond. I sincerely hope that you and the Board of Regents will support the NBMG in these admittedly difficult economic times. The bureau's work is more critical than it has ever been, and I have every confidence that it will remain vital and beneficial to your state far into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan S. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

Jonathan S. Miller  
Professor  
Department of Geology