

March 17, 2011

The Honorable Governor Brian Sandoval,

Nevada is endowed with many mineral resources, which can provide the state and its people with resources to thrive and succeed in the modern, ever-changing technology world we live in. Geothermal waters, oil, gold, silver, copper, tungsten and lithium all occur in economic amounts in Nevada. However, these resources, which are so valued by other states and the world, must be found and produced. This requires geologic research, exploration and investment money. This money supports many local communities with well-paying jobs, especially at a time of such dire economic conditions within the state.

A company's first step is researching areas of interest to explore. This information usually resides with the state geological society. In Nevada, the **Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG)** is the **go-to agency** for all geologic resources. **NBMG** provides geologic maps and reports which are used by industries to develop our natural resources. Limiting access to these reports and maps places obstacles to companies to quickly and efficiently evaluate the potential for resources, and reflects negatively on Nevada's attempt to bring in new industry.

These same **NBMG** maps and reports also provide state and local governments with the information necessary to protect the population from natural disasters. Earthquakes (a 6.0 quake in Wells, Nevada in 2008 and the Mogul earthquake swarm in April 2008) and floods (Las Vegas, December 2010, most recently and Reno, 1997) have damaged areas of Nevada in the past and remain an ever possible threat for the future. Geologic research has provided the information needed to protect the population by helping to understand what areas are of the greatest risk for a geologic catastrophe. This research not only helps save lives but provides companies and government the information to implement life- and cost-saving measures to minimize the damage.

Nevada citizens and tourists can benefit from these products as they explore Nevada with their families and investigate the natural wonders of our great state (example: *Traveling America's Loneliest Road, a Geologic and Natural History Tour through Nevada along U.S. Highway 50, with GPS Coordinates 2010*).

All of these maps and publications are available to the public to purchase on-line or by visiting the **NBMG** offices in Reno, Nevada. This office is user-friendly and staffed by a small, but competent group of people who are eager and willing to serve the needs of the public and industry.

Removing the current level of funding from the **NBMG** (\$2.1 million) compromises the state's ability to attract new business, provide on-going geologic research to save lives and protect property from natural disasters, and would reduce public access to geologic information.

Sincerely,



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