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International GNSS Service

*Drs. Milton Glick and Marc Johnson
President's Office
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-001*

Dear Dr. Glick and Johnson –

The news of the severe budget and resource reductions planned for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology is stunning. The activities, research, and contributions of the NBMG department of the University of Nevada, Reno are globally renown and comprise core competencies that are extremely difficult to cultivate, attract and aggregate. The academic research and technical capabilities of this group are truly unique, and I am quite surprised that this is an area targeted for such drastic cuts. A state like Nevada surely requires a vital support program to understand and plan appropriate actions to address its geological resources, geothermal potentials, geohazards risks and natural disasters. I know that NBMG attracts considerable external grants that fund significant research, which are at risk with reduction in state funding.

In my capacity as Director of the Central Bureau of the International GNSS Service (IGS - an organization of more than 200 organizations in 90+ countries, and a global tracking network of 450 stations), I am very familiar with UNR's Nevada Geodetic Laboratory (NGL) and their contributions to advancing space geodesy, particularly in the research and applications of GPS, and their work with NBMG. Professor Geoff Blewitt and the NGL team are internationally respected for their expertise and innovations, and it is most worrisome that this incredible depth of experience is also at risk.

I urge you to fully consider the negative impact the proposed reductions would have on the unique capabilities and capacities of the NBMG and NGL for the state of Nevada, the United States and (yes) even the world. I understand that these are most difficult economic times and wish you the best in navigating the future for the entire University of Reno. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional comments or clarifications.

Sincere regards,

*Ruth E. Neilan
Director, IGS Central Bureau*

Formerly the International GPS Service

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