

From: deanpelt <deanpelt@aol.com>
To: drhoads <drhoads@sen.state.nv.us>
Sent: Tue, Mar 22, 2011 6:35 am
Subject: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Funding

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I am very concerned about the proposed budget cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). I have worked as a geologist in mineral exploration and mining in Nevada for twenty five years and have consistently used the research, maps and reports that NBMG has generated. Nevada has recently been rated as the 2nd best place in the world for mineral exploration by the Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies. The availability of public geological data, particularly geologic mapping, provided by NBMG contributes significantly to Nevada being a good place to explore. The information they provide is especially critical for new exploration and mining companies that wish to invest in Nevada.

The availability of clean energy is very important to our state and nation. Nevada has tremendous potential to add geothermal power generating capacity due to the presence of numerous geothermal systems. Research and the generation of maps by NBMG helps companies become interested in exploring for geothermal resources in the state and then aid them by focusing their exploration efforts.

Earthquakes and floods, as we have witnessed recently in Japan, can cause great human and economic loss. Recent earthquakes in Wells and Mogul remind us that we live in a seismically active area. In 1915, the Pleasant Valley Earthquake, south of Winnemucca, was estimated to be 7.75 on the Richter Scale. That is 7 times larger than the San Francisco Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 and Northridge earthquake near Los Angeles in 1994. Both these earthquakes caused loss of life and extensive property damage. Imagine the damage an earthquake the size of the Pleasant Valley Earthquake would do in a populated area like Reno or Las Vegas. The studies that NBMG conducts and their publications on natural disasters like earthquakes and floods is the most important work they do. Continued funding of their work on mapping active faults and other earthquake related research is imperative to inform the public and policy makers so the risk of human loss and property damage is reduced through understanding and preparedness.

I urge you to keep the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology funding at current levels so they can do this important work that contributes to the safety of the citizens of Nevada and encourages economic development.

Sincerely,

Dean R. Peltonen