

From: Clay Postlethwaite [mailto:Clay.Postlethwaite@Newmont.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:27 AM
To: bkieckhefer@sen.state.nv.us
Cc: Jonathan G Price
Subject: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Proposed Budget Reductions

Dear Senator Kieckhefer,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed 52 budget cut to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). I am deeply concerned that such drastic budget reductions will impair the Bureau's ability to perform its functions for the State.

For the last 23 years, I have worked directly and indirectly in the metals mining, industrial minerals, geothermal and petroleum industries in Nevada as a geologist, and an environmental consultant. Throughout that time, I have relied on maps, publications, databases, files, and sample repositories created and/or maintained by NBMG. Both the original research and data maintained by NBMG have been important components of projects undertaken in the State, with annual program budgets spent in Nevada of typically between \$200,000 and \$2,000,000 per year.

At least as important has been the opportunity to confer with NBMG staff directly. As professional researchers, they maintain both a vast knowledge of the geology of Nevada, but also are leading the science in the most current methods and models.

Finally, it seems that the proposed 52% budget reduction for NBMG is excessive, since the campus-wide proposed cuts are around 34%. I worry that such severe cuts will not only result in reduced research, but the loss of personnel whose work supports both green energy initiatives, such as geothermal energy, but also public safety through earthquake hazards mapping.

Sincerely,

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