

From: Prenn, Neil [mailto:Neil@mda.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:15 PM

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Cc: Jonathan G Price

Subject: Proposed Cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dear Assemblyman

Dear Senator

Dear Regent

I was really surprised when I learned that that UNR planned to cut the funding to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) by more than 50%. The NBMG plays an important part in supporting the mining and geothermal industries in Nevada. Nevada is the number one state in the United States for generating revenue from mining and number two in generating power from geothermal sources.

Since Jon Price has been the NBMG director, considerable information has been converted from paper to digital information. A trip to the NBMG website is all that it will take to see the considerable information that is available to Nevadans seeking information on mineral resources, engineering geology, environmental geology, hydrogeology, and geologic mapping.

NBMG scientists conduct research and publish reports that foster economic development, promote public safety, and improve quality of life in urban and rural areas of Nevada. Some areas of economic development and risk reduction from natural hazards are listed below. The NBMG website, <http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/>, has links to NBMG publications and services. The latest NBMG biennial report, <http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/dox/of1014.pdf>, provides details on what we have accomplished recently, and Appendix B of the report lists the statutory mandates for NBMG.

NBMG is the statewide research and public service unit that serves as the State geological survey. NBMG's mission, to provide the State's needs for geological and energy- and mineral-resource information and research, is defined in its enabling legislation. Established by the Nevada Legislature as a department within the public service division of the Nevada System of Higher Education, NBMG is one of the Statewide Programs at UNR. Although NBMG contributes to the educational mission of UNR through support of numerous graduate and undergraduate students on externally funded research and occasional teaching, NBMG's main contributions are accomplished through research and dissemination of results. NBMG is supplementing State funding with approximately \$4 million per year in external grants. Nevada stands to annually lose \$2 million or more in additional federal grant funding, if NBMG's State funding is cut by \$1.1 million. I have attached the NBMG biennial report to give you more details of the services that the bureau provides.

I am writing to suggest that the proposed budget cuts should be revised to be more in line with cuts to the university and encourage two changes to the structure of the NBMG.

First, I believe that the NBMG should be structured to work with the Desert Research Institute (DRI). Already, the **Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology** *Publication Sales and Information Offices* are located at the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library on the Desert Research Institute campus. DRI and NBMG already work together on a number of common projects.

Second, a portion of the taxes generated from mining and geothermal energy production should be dedicated to support the NBMG.

In my opinion you will lose more than you gain in budget savings. The real impact to the NBMG, UNR and Nevada may be many times more than the proposed cuts.

Sincerely,

Neil Prenn