



GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

March 22, 2011

Dr. Jeffrey S. Thomson
Dean, College of Science
NS-0424, University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557

RE: Letter of Support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG)

Dear Dean Thomson,

I was disappointed to learn last week that the NBMG was slated for an extreme budgetary reduction.

I have worked with several members of the NBMG and can attest that they have made many long and sustained contributions to the scholarship and science of geothermal energy in Nevada and beyond. . These contributions have been made through their maps, special reports, and papers which have helped advance Nevada's energy economy, create jobs, and help our nation develop renewable energy. In addition, NBMG is one of the few organizations directly involved in the education and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students -- the next generation of geothermal scientists.

I appreciate that these are challenging times for all of us, but it strikes me that this reduction would be an unwise mistake that would cost the state much more in the long-run than the short-term savings that are sought. One must question the logic of dismantling such a cost-effective and beneficial program as NBMG. The proposed level of reduction is so severe that I worry whether NBMG will have sufficient funding to sustain its core mission to Nevada, let alone continue to be on the forefront of geothermal research. I am concerned that the Geothermal Center at UNR may cease to exist due to such extreme cuts and that UNR's academic programs will suffer as the result of the departure of some of the best scientists in the field.

I endorse the work of the NBMG enthusiastically and urge you, for Nevada, the nation, and geothermal science, to seek budgetary solutions elsewhere.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Robinson, PhD
Executive Director