



Kenneth M. Schwartz
Senior Geologist

**Midcontinent-Alaska Business
Unit**
Chevron North America
Exploration and Production
1400 Smith St; Rm 42040
Houston, Texas 77002
Tel 713-372-9379
Ken.Schwartz@Chevron.com

March 15, 2011
Dr. Jeffrey S. Thompson
Dean, College of Science
MS-0424, University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557 USA

Dear Dr. Jeffrey S. Thompson,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition of the proposed funding reduction and potential elimination of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG).

I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Master's degree in Geology in 2001. The NBMG directly supported my research and employed me as a research assistant. I feel my association with the NBMG provided me with the skill-set and knowledge that prepared me for a career as a Geologist. Further, without the support of the NBMG and my advisor, Dr. James Faulds (NBMG Research Professor), my higher education goals would have been unattainable.

Routinely, I saw NBMG staff collaborating with mining and energy companies. Both these industries are very active in Nevada and bring substantial revenues to the state. The reduction or elimination of the NBMG is out of sync with the growth mining and energy companies are under-going with the current commodity prices. The absence of NBMG will be felt.

I acknowledge that we are burdened with tough financial times and hard decisions have to be made. However, placing today's financial burden on the NBMG is clearly not the answer. I strongly urge you to reverse this course of action.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Schwartz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Schwartz", written in a cursive style.