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Drs. Glick and Johnson  
President's Office  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-001

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed drastic cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). NBMG scientists are conducting vitally important research in a number of areas, including my area of expertise - natural hazards. Their findings have been extremely important to the state of Nevada, particularly when one considers critical facilities within the state such as Yucca Flats, as well as the state's tourist based economy. One has only to look at recent events in Christchurch, New Zealand, and especially northern Japan to understand the risks to populations from earthquakes and other natural hazards.

I am especially familiar with the research of the Nevada Geodetic and InSAR Laboratories. These are outstanding groups who are doing state of the art science with tremendous societal implications. The Nevada Geodetic Lab has measured subtle, but significant strains building up within the state, strains that will likely be released in future earthquakes. In retrospect, it is now tragically clear that we were not paying sufficient attention to strains building up in northern Japan. The Nevada Geodetic Laboratory is making these critical measurements, and is also involved in prototype early warning systems. The InSAR lab is measuring ground motions associated both with faults in Nevada, as well as that due to changes in important aquifer systems.

The nature of our science is such that these centers of excellence require the kind of collaborative environment provided by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. Interactions with geologists and seismologists, among others, are crucial to answering pressing societal issues related to geohazards, mineral exploration, and geothermal energy.

I well understand that state institutions are under tremendous budget pressures, however I urge you to minimize the damage to this important state organization.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Segall".

Professor of Geophysics