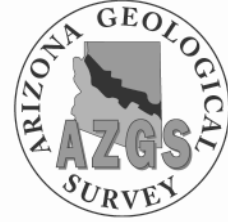




Janice K. Brewer
Governor

State of Arizona
Arizona Geological Survey

416 W. Congress, Suite 100
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(520) 770-3500



M. Lee Allison, Ph.D., R.G.
Director and State Geologist

March 22, 2011

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

Dear Dr. Thompson:

It has come to my attention that the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) is slated for a 52% budget reduction followed by possible termination the following year.

As a geologist for the Arizona Geological Survey I am writing to express my support for the NBMG. Nevada has enormous mineral resources (especially gold), significant earthquake hazards, geothermal resources, increasing needs for limited water resources, flood and earth fissure hazards, and other geologic issues that affect the economy and public welfare in Nevada. It is clear to me that State geological surveys serve an important role in promoting resource development and insuring public safety. Furthermore, this is typically done with a small amount of funding compared to the substantial public benefit derived from State survey products. Finally, State geologic surveys provide a kind of institutional memory to State governments in matters related to geologic resources and hazards. Reduction in funding is, in a sense, dumbing down the collective intelligence of State citizens in matters related to geologic resources and hazards.

I urge you to reconsider severe budget reductions to the NBMG and to fund the agency so that it can continue to serve the citizens of Nevada in the professional manner for which it is known.

Sincerely,

Jon Spencer
Senior Geologist