

From: Harvey Thorleifson [mailto:thorleif@umn.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Jonathan G Price
Subject: RE: Request for e-mail supporting the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dear Dr. Price: I am writing at this time of constricting state budgets to provide observations on the essential and beneficial roles that are played by state geological surveys throughout this nation.

As you know, State Geologists are working hard at present to support each other, as we know how important our role is in society, in stimulating economic development, in saving money, as well as in averting loss of life and damage to property.

Here in Minnesota, we are receiving enhanced funding from the Legislature, as it has been recognized that our role in geological mapping that is needed, for example, to protect well water is essential. I anticipate that your sponsors will similarly recognize that investments in their state geological survey will pay a significant return.

A state geological survey such as yours is on call to support activity such as earthquake preparedness, and natural resource management, on an ongoing basis. The state survey needs to be there, to play the role you often play in partnering with federal agencies and other states, to ensure that that the people of Nevada will be able to enjoy benefits that are made available to them.

A good example is the role that the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology plays in systematic information gathering that will lead to development of major new mines. No company would pay for your role, as the benefits that will come in the long term can't yet be clarified. This is why public support to the state geological survey is such a wise investment. Similarly, you play an essential role in the wise development of geothermal energy.

Recent natural disasters around the world are a reminder of how crucial it is for us all to be prepared. The people of Nevada are counting on the ongoing, systematic role of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology to help ensure that they will be ready when inevitable major earthquakes, landslides, or floods occur, whether today or a decade from now.

Jon, because State Geologists like you and I understand the essential role that state geological surveys play, I hope that you will consider it appropriate for me to offer these thoughts. I might ask you to do the same in support of our role. We are in a

position to create jobs, save money, and prevent loss of life as well as damage to property. It is important that we communicate clearly, so that our sponsors will be able to invest in these savings and benefits.

Sincerely,

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