



**University of Luxembourg**

Faculté des Sciences, de la Technologie et de la  
Communication

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Drs. Milton Glick and Marc Johnson

President's Office

University of Nevada, Reno

Reno, NV 89557-001

Luxembourg, 23-March, 2011

**Letter in support of maintaining a budget necessary for the survival of Nevada  
Bureau of Mines & Geology, University of Nevada, Reno**

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson,


It was with great disbelief that I recently learned of the proposed budget cuts in Nevada and the devastating impact that they will have on the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory (NGL) and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG), University of Nevada, Reno.

My colleague, Professor Geoffrey Blewitt, and his group are internationally recognized scientists who are known for their innovative and significant contributions to our science. They are productive in many areas of geodesy including sea level, plate tectonics, the earthquake cycle, and they hydrological cycle. One very important and very timely aspect of their work is the tsunami warning system that in fact accurately sensed the recent devastating tsunami in Japan.

In addition to these global scale issues that are often important to society as a whole, the team is also involved in research that is important for the state of Nevada. They were fundamental in the installation and maintenance of the Basin And Range GEodetic Network (BARGEN) continuous GPS network, a network that has been used to estimate the seismic hazards for the proposed nuclear waste facility. They use crustal deformation characteristics to infer changes in Nevada's geothermal resources. And they use the GPS data to understand aquifer changes and subsequent subsidence with in Nevada.

In a state where geohazards and nuclear waste co-exist and where mineral resources and geothermal energy abound, the question should be "Can Nevada afford to not support the NBMG and the NGL?". The proposed cuts and administrative changes will ravage the NBMG, rendering it essentially useless. Therefore, I urge you to please take the appropriate actions to maintain a strong NBMG and NGL group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. van Dam". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Prof. Tonie van Dam

Chair Geophysical Fluids Center of the International Earth Rotation Service

Secretary of the Geodesy Section of the American Geophysical Union

Luxembourg Secretary to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysicists

Directing Board Member of the Working group of European Geoscientists for the Establishment of Networks for Earth-science Research (WEGENER), of the International Association of Geodesy