

From: Wright, Bill (Elko Exploration) [mailto:BWright@barrick.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:08 AM
To: [Greg Brower](#), [Hickey](#), [Cobb](#), and others
Subject: RE: Support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dear Senator Brower,

UNR recently announced plans to reduce State funding for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) from \$2.1 million to \$1.0 million, and I am writing you to recommend very strongly against those cuts. Those cuts are exceptionally short-sighted because the NBMG provides services to Nevada that help to protect lives and property, to promote economic development and diversity, and to attract additional funding to the state. Those cuts are also counterproductive because they will result in additional costs to the Nevada economy far in excess of the apparent savings.

More specifically, Senator Brower, during the course of my +30-year career in mineral exploration, I have seen directly that the excellent work NBMG does in developing and publishing geologic maps and reports provides valuable assistance to a wide variety of businesses (mining, geothermal, engineering), to numerous regulatory agencies, and to the general public. Their work provides vital factual information dealing with seismic risks, flood risks, and abandoned mine risks. Their work helps private companies to identify and develop new economic resources (metals, industrial minerals, petroleum, and geothermal power among others), while also helping regulatory agencies to ensure appropriate public safety and environmental safeguards.

My particular industry (I am a Principal Geologist for Barrick Gold Corporation) collaborates closely with both the NBMG and the University on a variety of projects of mutual concern. While their interaction may not be obvious from the outside, we in the mining industry have learned to place a high value on the contribution of the NBMG staff and resources to the overall quality of University research programs and to the education of University students. Reducing their budgets to the point that they lose staff to better opportunities and become unable to function properly will necessarily force us to turn increasingly to other research and educational groups for our future collaboration and support. Those are certainly not the sort of negative multiplier effects that any of us want to see in the University's or the State's future.

Sincerely,

William A. Wright