

1460 West 12th Street
Reno, NV 89503

March 20, 2011

James Dean Leavitt
Chairman and District 13 Regent
Nevada System of Higher Education
200 Hoover Ave., Suite 150
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

This is a letter of support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. You will get from other supporters a lengthy account of all the important things the Bureau does, so I won't repeat them here. What I will say is, these things cannot be done adequately by the significantly smaller Bureau which is envisioned by the reduced budget. I urge the Board of Regents to maintain current funding levels for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. Of course this needs to be in the context of solid funding for the entire Nevada System of Higher Education, and I'm also writing to the Nevada State legislators and Governor Sandoval in support of funding for the entire System.

I write as a Nevada voter and taxpayer, as a member of the Nevada geology community, as a geologist in Nevada's exploration and mining industry, as a member of the NBMG Advisory Committee, and as a user of NBMG products.

Here is one example of using the results of Bureau research: Every time we look at a prospect, we start by consulting the NBMG County Report and geologic map for the county where the prospect is located. We use the Bureau's publications and other work on a regular basis. There are a number of areas for which there is not yet a quad-scale geologic map and we eagerly await the day when those maps have been produced. Any individual prospector has just as much access to that information as the big companies have. Over the years I have worked for numerous companies and for myself, and have learned that big companies have extensive data files; small companies and individuals rely on publicly-available data. As long as the Bureau is funded by the public, it will be free to do work that is available to any member of the public. If it is compelled to look to private sources for funding, it may need to shift over to doing proprietary work. That would be a good outcome for companies big enough to fund the work, but a poor outcome for small companies and individuals.

Once again, please maintain funding for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Zbinden