

1457 Hillside Dr.
Reno, NV 89503

March 26, 2011

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

Dr. Jeffrey S. Thompson,

My name is Robbie Anderson and I am a graduate student studying Economic Geology at the University of Nevada, Reno. I am writing to express my regret for the proposed budget cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and ask for a reconsideration of these drastic measures. I feel that the Bureau is an invaluable asset to both the educational goals of the Mackay School of Mines in addition to the development and economic growth of the state of Nevada.

To illustrate my point, I would like to state a few examples in which individuals at the Bureau have directly enriched my education and furthered my understanding of the complex geologic development of Nevada and its related mineral and geothermal resources. After a number of years working as a mine geologist in southeast Alaska I decided to continue graduate studies here in Nevada. Given the mineral wealth of the state, and the reputation of the Mackay School of Mines, UNR seemed an ideal choice. Working as a researcher for the Center for Research in Economic Geology, the expertise both within the Bureau and the USGS have been invaluable over the past eleven months as a new Nevadan resident.

I started work in the state in April of 2010, working on a gold exploration and development project. Immediately, I was interacting with NBMG personnel—both on and off the job. I was fortunate enough to accompany Chris Henry and a former University of Georgia colleague on mapping exercises within the McDermitt Caldera in early May. This experience exposed me to the geologic complexities associated with volcanic centers in addition to mineral potential within these environments—including investigations of historical mercury operations, uranium mineralization, and potential lithium resources within the caldera. Chris Henry's guidance and tutelage on this outing was invaluable and highly appreciated. Additionally, Chris has been an asset in my research into the geologic environment within my project area, assisting me both on and off the job and serving as a member of my graduate committee.

Regarding the role of the NBMG in the teaching mission at UNR, I am currently enrolled in two courses taught by Bureau researchers. John Price has been an excellent resource in understanding the development and paragenesis of ore deposits through his

knowledge in reflected light microscopy. These skills have been applied in my research and will further provide an asset in my career. Outside of studies relating to the state's metallic resources, Jim Faulds has exposed me to the wealth of geothermal potential within Nevada. His expertise in structural mapping and applications to cost effective geothermal exploration have enlightened me on a subject I was relatively unfamiliar with. I have a newfound appreciation for this exciting field of research and resource development and have learned numerous practical applications to my own research related to ancient geothermal systems and resulting precious metal deposits. Additionally, outside of direct instruction, I have had many insightful conversations with John Muntean over the past three years since my initial interest in pursuing graduate studies here at UNR—it just took a few years of work for the opportunity to come to fruition.

I have written this letter—both as a graduate student and practicing geologist within the state—to express the profound importance the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology plays in the continued educational efforts and economic development of the state of Nevada. A budget reduction of greater than 50% will be detrimental to future students within Nevada's educational system as well as impact Nevada's growth. Natural resource development--be it metallic, aggregate, or geothermal in nature—are key factors in bringing dollars and growth to the state. While the current budget crisis is dire, such a drastic reduction in the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology's budget serves only to save a dime at the expense of a dollar further down the road.

I appreciate your time in reading my letter and additional time in consideration regarding this very important issue. I know I am a very recent resident to the state of Nevada, and I hope to have a vested interest in this great state years from now.

Sincerely,
Robbie Anderson
University of Nevada, Reno