

From: Wayne Carlson <waynecarlson@poolpact.com>

Sent: Tue, March 22, 2011 10:23:59 AM

Subject: RE: Letter of Support to save NBMG

To: the Governor, Board of Regents and all Assembly and Senate members.

As a long-time member of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, I have seen the dedicated and critical work done by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology in support of research and community awareness about the risks of earthquakes. I have come to know Director and State Geologist Jon Price and many of the key scientists, all of whom show great dedication to the cause of preparing Nevadans for earthquakes. Nevada is the third most active earthquake state after Alaska and California.

In my professional role managing the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool, we experienced and paid nearly \$5 million as our share of the Wells earthquake in 2008 that affected our members: Elko County School District, Elko County, City of Wells and Humboldt County School District. During the earthquake and the frequent aftershocks that lasted two months, staff from the NBMG was on the ground helping to assess the earthquake damage and to assist with recovery efforts. They developed an extensive report about the lessons learned from the Wells earthquake that would help guide other communities in preparing for and recovering from an earthquake.

While I understand the severity of the State's financial condition, the NBMG functions face severely disproportionate cuts proposed by the University of Nevada, Reno. A cut of over 50% cut is too severe to sustain the NBMG's important public safety and information role such as assisting the State Damage Assessment Team, evaluating possible unstable landslides and major earthquake risks and getting information about the event out to the public. They do earthquake fault mapping, earthquake scenario planning, HAZUS runs and are developing a statewide inventory of unreinforced masonry buildings that are a great threat to public safety if not mitigated. That inventory will be published to the public via an interactive Web site that will assist emergency planners and response teams to know where the highest risks of loss exist.

The NBMG also plays an important role for Nevada's future as an energy exporting state. Its research and future research are responsible for new geothermal sites and enhanced production at geothermal sites which leads to jobs, good revenue, and contributes to developing US energy independence.

I urge you to protect against severe cuts to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology because it is critical to public safety and economic development in Nevada. These cuts are too deep and we as Nevadans will lose too much.

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