



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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March 17, 2011

Dr. Milton Glick
President of the University of Nevada Reno

Dear Dr. Glick:

Please reconsider your decision to cut the size of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) and merge the remainder of it into the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering (DGSE). NBMG contributes directly to the economy of Nevada by guiding exploration for mineral resources ranging from gold to groundwater. They also contribute indirectly by delineating areas likely to experience earthquakes, floods, landslides and other hazards and guiding land use decisions. As mines are exhausted and population density increases, studies of this type will become increasingly important to Nevada.

Merging NBMG staff into the DGSE is not likely to serve Nevada well because the two organizations have such different missions. UNR advertises its commitment to basic research and DGSE has a well deserved reputation for world-class research of many types. In contrast, NBMG is focused on geology-based problems and challenges in the state. Although the two organizations have cooperated to the benefit of both, merging them will just make it harder for either organization to reach its goals.

At this point in history when mineral resources and geological hazards are major concerns to the entire world, Nevada is fortunate to have a strong group of professionals at NBMG. In addition to their work for the state, they also represent the importance of geology and mineral production to the wider US audience. I urge you to allow NBMG to continue to its important role in Nevada and the nation.

Yours very truly,

Stephen E. Kesler
Professor of Economic Geology
University of Michigan