

# GFZ

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## Expression of support for NBMG

Potsdam, 23 March 2011

Dear Dr. Thompson,

We are writing to you to express our greatest concerns about the budget cuts affecting the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG), as proposed by the Nevada government. Institutions like the NBMG play an important role in the industrialization of countries and states. Nevada in particular, which is just set to become one of the hot-spots in geothermal technologies, needs a competent bureau of mines to lay the ground for the successful development in such an area. The NBMG has positioned itself as an internationally recognized expert institution in the assessment of geothermal potential and the exploration of geothermal fields. It has thus become an indispensable part in the chain of development of this form of sustainable energy. We probably don't need to point out that, especially after the recent tragic events in Japan, renewable energies will play an important role in our energy future and will therefore be at the core of any economic recovery and future growth. By cutting the budget of such an institution, the necessary support for the development of this growing sector of Nevada's economy would be severely hampered. Needless to say, it would take more time and resources to set up a service like the NBMG than is saved by closing it down.

Our experience with the staff of NBMG we interacted with over the last years has been very fruitful, resulting in intensive collaboration in joint projects for the last couple of years. Experts at the NBMG enjoy international reputation, and we consider the NBMG as important institution for both fundamental and applied research in geosciences. We believe this huge down-sizing and potential elimination would be extremely short-sighted, because it would imply that Nevada will lose money, miss economic opportunities and destroy an institution of growing importance and international recognition. We therefore urge you to drop the proposed budget cuts and consider a strengthening of the NBMG instead – for the benefit of the people of Nevada.

Sincerely yours

HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM POTSDAM  
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