

Drs. Glick and Johnson  
President's Office  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-001



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## Letter of support

It was with concern that the geodetic institute of the Norwegian Mapping Authority (NMA) learned of the plans to cut NBMG's State funding from \$2.1 million to \$1 million per year.

The work performed by the geodesy group at NBMG is internationally recognized for its importance. Over the years, the group has contributed significantly to fundamental geodetic challenges like GPS analysis and the realization of reference frames. Their research has helped our understanding of Earth's inertia, tectonic processes, crustal movements and sea-level changes (to name a few).

We will in particular mention their work related to two parameters of the reference frame, geocenter and plate rotation. Both are fundamental geodetic terms, but with impact far beyond geodesy. The geocenter is mandatory to understand and describe land uplift, which again is a key parameter to understand the component of the earth's inertia. Knowledge about plate rotation and the movement of the individual tectonic plates are necessary to understand the processes behind earthquakes. In tectonic active areas this is mandatory to reduce the impact of geohazard.

For Nevada, information from these studies is vital for assessing seismic hazards, geological mapping for mineral exploration and for investigating geothermal resources. In addition, the group has developed GPS analysis software that is now widely used by other researchers worldwide. It is not an understatement to say that they have pioneered both the theory and application of GPS which are of huge benefit to the scientific community, globally as well as locally.

Over many years the NMA has had a close and fruitful cooperation with the geodetic group at NBMG. We highly value this relationship and the scientific contributions NBMG have made. We believe that the decision to cut their funding is a mistake. Not only will the research community suffer, but also the State of Nevada. For example, it has been brought to attention that, last year, the NBMG attracted \$4 million of federal grants for \$2 million state funding. We are highly impressed by the ability of the NBMG to bring in money from outside Nevada.

We are only one of many international organizations who are familiar with and highly value the research and work of NBMG. We urge you to reconsider your decision to half their budget given the reasons above.

Yours sincerely



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Director, Geodetic Institute

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