

March 15, 2011

Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Capital Building
Carson city, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval,

I am writing to express my support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG).

In an effort to meet proposed budget targets, the University of Nevada, Reno announced on March 7th that it plans to cut NBMG's State funding from \$2.1 million per year to \$1.0 million, if the funds are available from the State. I believe this is a tragic mistake, because it will mean that Nevada will lose money, miss economic opportunities, and not protect and serve our citizens and visitors as well as we should. NBMG stimulates economic diversification and development in the State, saves lives, and protects property from natural disasters.

NBMG is the statewide research and public service unit that serves as the State geological survey. NBMG's mission, to provide the State's needs for geological and energy- and mineral-resource information and research, is defined in its enabling legislation. Established by the Nevada Legislature as a department within the public service division of the Nevada System of Higher Education, NBMG is one of the Statewide Programs at UNR. Although NBMG contributes to the educational mission of UNR through support of numerous graduate and undergraduate students on externally funded research and occasional teaching, NBMG's main contributions are accomplished through research and dissemination of results. NBMG supplements their State funding with approximately \$4 million per year in external grants. Nevada stands to annually lose \$2 million or more in additional federal grant funding, if NBMG's State funding is cut by \$1.1 million.

NBMG scientists conduct research and publish reports that foster economic development, promote public safety, and improve quality of life in urban and rural areas of Nevada. Some areas of economic development and risk reduction from natural hazards are listed below. The NBMG website, <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/>, has links to NBMG publications and services. The latest NBMG biennial report, <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/dox/of1014.pdf>, provides details on what they have accomplished recently, and Appendix B of the report lists the statutory mandates for NBMG.

I respectfully ask you to fully fund and support the NBMG so that Nevada will continue to benefit from its many activities which serve our state so well.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Parratt
2190 Augusta Ave
Reno, NV 89509