

To: Nevada System of Higher Education  
Board of Regents  
Attn: Scott Wasserman, CEO  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, NV 89512  
(775) 784-4958

March 22, 2011

From: Michael W. Ressel, PhD  
Kinross Gold Corporation  
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Re: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology proposed cuts

Dear Scott and distinguished members of the Board of Regents,

My name is Mike Ressel. I'm a senior geologist employed at Kinross Gold Corporation based in Reno. I strongly support the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. While I understand the severity of the Nevada economic downturn and the necessity for budget cuts throughout the State and University System, I question the recent proposal by UNR to slash NBMG's state funding by half. NBMG has long been and continues to be integral to earth sciences education and research in Nevada. NBMG is the principal source for valuable regional information on mining and geology as it pertains to the Silver State. No other agency or department, state or federal, collects and disseminates the kind of data that is as timely and useful in the exploration and development of Nevada's mineral resources as NBMG. The Bureau's active support of mining and exploration includes a regular stream of newly-published, peer-reviewed, and on-line-accessible publications that include geologic maps, detailed district reports, ore deposit studies, journal articles, and yearly industry summaries. Publications such as these are the foundation for exploration, they stimulate new ideas, and they promote a well-educated public. The Bureau is the practical tie between research/education and industry in the earth sciences not only for the mining and exploration industry in Nevada, but serves equally well in the realm of geologic hazards (e.g., seismic activity, which Nevada ranks among the top in the U.S. and urban flooding), energy (e.g., geothermal, where Nevada is tops for new resources), and water. Nevada's huge outlay of public lands are clearly important for helping drive part of the State's economic engine and justifies the need for a Nevada-sponsored organization that focuses on the front-end of developing those resources.

With regard to NBMG as a component of the University, I am a product of NBMG as much as I am of the Mackay School. NBMG's resources, including research staff and equipment, have long been an important part of the School and its students. Many of us former Mackay students have benefitted greatly from the Bureau's support. I am a good example. I worked for two Bureau

geologists (Steve Castor, Lisa Shevenell) while in graduate school at Mackay, trained on (thanks to Mario Desilets and Li Hsu) and regularly used the analytical lab, the rock preparation lab, the x-ray labs, and the mineral separates lab, had Bureau staff on my graduate committees (Chris Henry as my PhD advisor, Larry Garside, Paul Lechler, and Li Hsu), and collaborated with several Bureau research geologists on various published papers. My experience is a common one between the Bureau and Mackay students and staff. While teaching is not a principal role of NBMG, it has always strongly supported students in more ways than are widely appreciated.

I urge the budgetary decision makers in Nevada to practice prudence and fairness in deliberations of the budget for the upcoming biennium. The NBMG is a Nevada tradition. It is not a fancy operation, but rather an efficient, data-generating agency that accomplishes its important mission. It is founded on decades of quality work and a commitment to supply Nevadans with the information they require to make good decisions about Nevada natural resources and hazards. I also encourage you to consider other options that result in less impact to NBMG, perhaps through partial funding of the Bureau's loss by funds from Nevada's Net Proceeds Tax.

Sincerely,

Mike Ressel