

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Jeffrey S Thompson
Cc: Jonathan G Price
Subject: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dr. Jeff Thompson, Dean
College of Science
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I am writing this letter in specific support of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and its many fine faculty and staff. I have just heard that the Nevada state legislature is considering cutting the Bureau's funding for the next fiscal year, and perhaps eliminating it the following year. Both would be tragic mistakes that would negatively impact UNR and the state.

I have spent a good deal of my career working with NBMG personnel and utilizing their work. Professionally the Bureau is of the highest caliber and exemplary among state geological surveys. For a state that relies so heavily on the mineral industry, that is now pushing the development of geothermal energy, has to pay attention to seismic hazards, and clearly has long-term water resource issues, it seems just a bit strange that the state would want to cripple, or worse, do away with the NBMG. Jon Price must be given credit for taking the Bureau to new levels of excellence, to a place where it can provide information on these issues that impact not only the state of Nevada, but the nation. Although this is an outsider's view, there will be many eyes on the state and UNR assessing what happens. Having said that, I want to place particular emphasis on the importance of Lisa Shevenell and Jordan Hastings to UNR. I've been working closely with Jordan for the last couple of years on mission-critical aspects of developing the National Geothermal Data System, and for the DOE Geothermal Data Repository. Both are of immediate and applied importance to Nevada and I would argue that Jordan's and Lisa's involvements, through NBMG, greatly assist in maintaining UNR's high stature in both geoinformatics and geothermal energy.

In summary, please take this as a positive letter of support for UNR, the Bureau, its Director Jon Price, Jordan Hastings and Lisa Shevenell, among others. I'm an "outsider" only in the sense that I don't live in Nevada, but I have worked their most of my career, know the Nevada Congressional delegation through our joint geothermal endeavors, and can, with confidence, say that many others around the country share my views.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Snyder

*Director, National Geothermal Data System
the DOE-Geothermal Data Repository
-and-*

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