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November 19, 2020

Thom Reilly, D.P.A., Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Elisa Cafferata, Acting Director
Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
500 East Third Street
Carson City, Nevada 89713

Re: Mining Education

Dear Dr. Reilly, Ms. Ebert, and Ms. Cafferata:

The Legislative Committee on Energy (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218E.805) meets during the interim period between legislative sessions to evaluate, review, and comment on matters related to energy policy in Nevada.

This interim, the Committee received testimony on the importance of mining in the development of energy resources and voted unanimously to send this letter urging the collaboration between the Nevada System of Higher Education, Department of Education, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, and mining industry regarding training and education.

More than a century and a half after the first claims were staked in Nevada, mining continues to be an important part of our state's economy. In addition to our famous gold and silver reserves, Nevada is home to significant lithium reserves. Lithium has gained increased attention and importance due to the development of the lithium ion battery storage market. Recently, electrification of transportation, as well as increased adoption of solar, wind, and alternate energy production methods, has dramatically increased the demand for lithium in the market place.

Our state is rich in lithium resources. Silver Peak, Nevada, operated by Albemarle Corporation, is recognized as the only producing lithium mine in North America. In addition, Lithium Americas is advancing the Thacker Pass project in Humboldt County, reportedly the

largest-known lithium deposit in the United States. The Silver Peak mine and Thacker Pass project highlight the importance of a trained and skilled energy and mining workforce in Nevada. Employment in these industries expands regularly and a diversity of skill sets are needed.

Therefore, the Committee urges industry-education partnerships throughout the education continuum—from K–12 through undergraduate, graduate studies, and continuing education—to ensure education and training become stronger and more comprehensive in mining and mineral-related fields. It is imperative to build strategic partnerships in which industry representatives are advising educators and state agencies involved in workforce training and development on industry’s skill needs. Conversely, educational and state agencies should work to align education and workforce development programs directly with industry needs. As a state, we have a unique opportunity to inform, educate, and employ Nevadans in the energy and mining industries.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, at (775) 684-6825 or via email at mpthomas@lcb.state.nv.us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair
Legislative Committee on Energy
2019–2020 Interim