
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE—KNOXVILLE



Mail:
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
University of Tennessee
306 Geological Sciences Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-1410

Robert D. Hatcher, Jr.
UT Distinguished Scientist
and Professor of Geology

Tectonics and Structural Geology Research

A Tennessee Center of Excellence **UT science alliance**

Office:
511 Science & Engineering Research Center
Phone: (865) 974-6565 or -2238
Mobile (865) 803-6278
Fax: (865) 974-9326
E-Mail: bobmap@utk.edu

URL: <http://geoweb.gg.utk.edu/geology/faculty/Hatcher/Hatcher.html>

February 17, 2005

Dr. Mark G. McNamee
Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Burruss Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. McNamee:

My purpose here is to indicate my enthusiastic support for your efforts to bring the proposed NSF-sponsored Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) to the Kimballton site near Virginia Tech. This is an exciting project that should during its 20- to 30-year lifetime yield world-class results for the physics, earth and biological sciences, and engineering communities. This site will provide a much-needed facility for shielded particle physics experiments. The Kimballton site, however, provides unparalleled opportunities for a greater variety of multidisciplinary process-oriented experiments in the other sciences and engineering than other potential sites, primarily because Kimballton is located in sedimentary rocks in one of the classic fold-thrust belts in the world. A number of fundamental concepts in geological science have already been formulated here. The Kimballton site presents unique opportunities for long-term process-oriented research in a 3-D block of layered crust, with the ability to study natural and artificial processes from within the block.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in the early stages of this project as a co-PI, and wish you every success in bringing the DUSEL to southwestern Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Hatcher, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Robert D. Hatcher, jr.