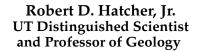
## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE—KNOXVILLE

A Tennessee Center of Excellence





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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:

Mail:

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. 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. Kimballton site presents unique opportunities for long-term processoriented 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,

Robert D. Hatcher, jr.

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