

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing in support of the proposal covering conceptual design for DUSEL at Kimballton, Virginia. My field of research includes regional structure, stratigraphy and geotechnics of foreland fold and thrust belts. The Kimballton site offers a world-class location for this research to be pursued, and I am working as a member of the Kimballton team to help make this a reality. If Kimballton is accepted by the NSF as an S2 site I intend to participate as an engineering geology consultant in the geological and engineering studies to characterize the site in detail.

The features of Kimballton that appeal to me are: 1. Geographic location near the Appalachian structural front close to a nationally ranked university. 2. The Kimballton site contains multiple thrust sheets of well-defined sedimentary units with known physical and chemical properties and well-documented stratigraphy. 3. Similar lithologic units are repeated at different depths, allowing for different pressure, temperature, and paleostress environments to test different hydrological and mineral resource models both during initial excavation and during the operating life of the facility.

The (research/engineering) community I am a member of should be represented in DUSEL because: it combines both engineers and earth scientists with industrial, exploration and academic research backgrounds that have been focused on crucial problems in regional and international energy, mineral, and water resources development. These are all critical areas in today's changing world.

Sincerely,

William S. Henika