Dear Committee Member,

My field of research is seismic reservoir characterization and the propagation of sound and electromagnetic waves in complex media, mostly with regard to the exploitation of hydrocarbons. The Kimballton site offers the only possible location for this kind of research to be pursued, and I am working as a member of the Kimballton team to help make this a reality.

Kimballton is the only sedimentary site proposed for DUSEL. Nearly all reserves of hydrocarbon (oil, gas, and coal) are located in sedimentary rocks. Exploration for new reserves is typically performed by remote sensing with geophysical techniques, predominantely seismic methods. However, ground truthing and controlled fluid substituion experiments are typically not performed. DUSEL at Kimballton provides a unique opportunity to advance remote-sensing methods for exploration, delineation of reservoirs, and characterization of the petrophysical properties. All other DUSEL locations are useless for any kind of work related to hydrocarbon energy resources! Building DUSEL in a sedimentary environment, however, will virtually guarantee collaboration and financial partnerships with the oil and gas industry. My friends in industry told me that would have not interest at all if DUSEL was built at a nonsedimentary site.

Building DUSEL at a sedimentary site will facilitate exciting collaborative research performed by private enterprises, national laboratories, and academia with funding from the oil and gas industry, the US Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation to help us quench our societal demand for hydrocarbon energy.

Sincerely,

Matthias Imhof
Associate Professor of
Exploration Geophysics