

February 7, 2004

Dr. Bob Bodnar
Department of Geosciences
Virginia Tech MC 0420
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Bodnar,

I am writing to lend full support to Virginia Tech's NSF proposal for a Deep Underground Science and Engineering Lab (DUSEL) at Kimballton. This is a tremendous opportunity for outreach to K-12 schools as well as to other public audiences. I am actively involved with VT-STEM, a university-wide outreach initiative in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). VT-STEM seeks to promote STEM literacy for non-technical audiences, and has a particular focus on tapping VT resources to enhance K-12 STEM education. What a bonanza DUSEL would be!

If this project is funded, we intend to pursue additional funding and projects to provide teacher and student learning experiences along with state-of-the-art public interpretation. In addition, we would work with undergraduate education in regional 4-year colleges and community colleges, and we would explore the professional development needs for a variety of technical personnel and faculty. The "Big Science", international, and multidisciplinary nature of the DUSEL makes some very unusual outreach activities possible here in our area of the Southern Appalachians. I believe many funding sources would be available to us.

Respectfully,

Llyn Sharp
Assistant Director
Science Outreach Program