Dear Committee Member,

My field of research is tomographic imaging of rock masses for improved understanding of failure. The Kimballton site offers a preferred location for this research to be pursued, and I am working as a member of the Kimballton team to help make this a reality.

The features of Kimballton which appeal to me are the repeated layers of differing rock types. By accessing several rock types, each occurring at different depths, and therefore at different stress levels, we can better understand the complex relationship between stress and seismic wave velocity and attenuation. While tomographic imaging is used extensively in the medical field, its use is immature in the geo-engineering field. The Kimballton site offers the best location for further developing this technology.

The research and engineering community I am a member of should be represented in DUSEL because there are many valuable experiments that we can conduct at a dedicated, long-term facility. Typically we conduct our research at underground mines, which places many limitations on our ability to achieve the greatest possible results from the experiments.

Sincerely,
Erik C. Westman