



# UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

August 18, 1999

Dr. Martha Krebs  
Director, Dept. of Energy Research  
US Dept. of Energy Headquarters  
Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Krebs,

I want to express to you my appreciation and that of other BESAC members for taking the time from your busy schedule to give a presentation at our recent BESAC meeting August 10. As always, it was good to get your perspective on the current programs and future plans in the DOE Office of Science.

There are two items that arose in our meeting that the BESAC members wanted me to relate to you. The first has to do with the report on the Complex and Collective Phenomenon Initiative that you heard about from Dr. Charles Shank. The response from BESAC was unanimously supportive of the progress made by the participants of the March workshop organized by Dr. Shank, and the report generated by the participants. There is much excitement among our members for the important scientific problems and ideas that such an Initiative would address. If funded, we believe that such a unique program on Complex Systems could have a powerful impact on addressing important multidisciplinary problems of concern to the Department of Energy. We envision that such funding would provide a unique opportunity for scientists of different disciplines to coalesce their energies around the type of complex problems described in the report. We offer our assistance in helping you to further this effort and help to secure support for this important initiative.

Secondly, in our Wednesday morning session we had a report from David Moncton on the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS). As you know, BESAC has continually expressed its support for neutron facilities and the need for increased availability of neutrons to scientific users. David reported on the state of the organization of personnel for the project and the plans for the next few years with regards to initiating construction. The BESAC members were unanimously impressed with the progress made toward our ultimate goal of building this new world class neutron facility. We congratulate David Moncton for his superb leadership as Director of this project and hope to see continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Geraldine L. Richmond  
Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee  
Knight Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences

cc. Patricia Dehmer, Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences  
Iran Thomas, Deputy Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences  
Charles Shank, Director Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
David Moncton, Executive Director, Spallation Neutron Source

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