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Dr. Phil Goode
New Jersey Institution of Technology
Big Bear Solar Observatory

January 15, 2003

Dear Phil:

Your proposal to develop a 1.6 meter New Solar Telescope (NST) for deployment at Big Bear Solar Observatory is an exciting project and will be a very positive development for solar research, the production of solar astronomers at NJIT/BBSO, and the studies/forecasting of space weather that require sustained, observing campaigns. The partnership for the 4-meter Advanced Technology Solar Telescope has developed design concepts for heat control, the ATST optical train including an off-axis primary and adaptive optics, and is working on enclosures and other issues. We will freely make these concepts available to NJIT for inclusion in its efforts on the NST as appropriate.

In its role of providing solar facilities and research opportunities to the scientific community, NSO endorses your efforts and offers the following level of support. We can provide advice and suggestions that simplify the project. We can critique designs as they are developed and suggest improvements based on our efforts with the ATST design. NSO will stay fully involved in the development of the NJIT and NSO adaptive optics systems intended for the Dunn Solar Telescope and the BBSO 65 cm telescope. These systems will serve as the prototype for the ATST and provide a first, low-order working system for the NST.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen L. Keil".

Stephen L. Keil, Director
National Solar Observatory