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Philip R. Goode
Distinguished Professor of Physics
Director, Big Bear Solar Observatory
New Jersey Institute of Technology
BBSO, 40386 N. Shore Lane
Big Bear City, CA 92314

January 22, 2003

Dear Phil and Jeff,

I'm pleased to support your MRI proposal to replace the BBSO 65 cm solar telescope by an open, off-axis 1.6 m clear aperture telescope. In our RHESSI (Ramaty High Energy Spectroscopic Imager) spacecraft hard X-ray and gamma-ray imaging and spectroscopy studies of solar flares and related phenomena such as Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), we find that ground-based optical observations are essential for the analysis, and often provide the key to the understanding of these phenomena. Higher quality observations with the new telescope would certainly be extremely useful for future studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Lin".

Robert P. Lin
Professor of Physics and Director of the Space Sciences Laboratory