

**University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign**

National Center for Supercomputing Applications
605 East Springfield Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
USA

(217) 244-0078
(217) 244-8195 FAX

July 13, 2004

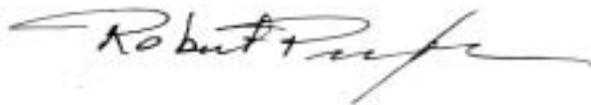
Dr. John Peoples
Project Director, Dark Energy Survey
Wilson Hall, MS 127
Fermilab
PO Box 500
Batavia, IL 60510-0050

Dear Dr. John Peoples,

The Dark Energy Survey is a very exciting opportunity from several perspectives, and we offer our enthusiastic support for this project. We strongly endorse this proposal to NOAO to build the dark energy camera, carry out the dark energy survey, and present these data for scientific use by the community. We are particularly interested in the data management components of the Dark Energy Survey, which we view as an important precursor experiment to the forthcoming Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST). To demonstrate our commitment to the data management activities within this project, NCSA will provide support for 0.5 FTE of a research programmer over the initial construction phase of the Dark Energy Survey project. In addition, we anticipate being able to support the hardware and related operations for the expected 100TB of disk storage and 500TB of fast tape storage as the project reaches the later stages, and access to the compute cycles required for the data analysis. The hardware maintenance support is effectively another 0.5 FTE. Formally, this support is contingent upon continued federal funding for NCSA, expected to run through FY07.

We expect that the Dark Energy Survey will also benefit from the synergy provided by existing experience in astronomical data analysis and archiving at NCSA, and we note that the large NCSA effort being directed at designing the data management component of LSST is also likely to offer significant benefits to the Dark Energy Survey data management.

Sincerely,



Robert Pennington
Interim Director