

MINNESOTA EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION

c/o North Central Mineral Ventures Inc.

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Dr. Dean Peterson
Senior Research Associate
Economic Geology Group
Natural Resources Research Institute
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Duluth MN 55811

Letter of Support

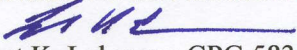
Dear Dean:

I have reviewed your proposal for a Precambrian Research Center which you propose be created at the University of Minnesota Duluth. I wish to indicate my strong personal support and that of the Minnesota Exploration Association, of which I am President.

Over the 50-plus years that I have been active in this state as a consultant, I have had the pleasure and satisfaction of having a number of UMD students and graduates working for me professionally and they have been among the best grounded of my former employees.

My particular focus of interest in you proposed Institute is in the field mapping phase. In my experience as an operator for many years of a geological and mining consulting company, as well as in my capacity as President of MExA and in my involvement in the for a number of years in the American Geological Institute's Work Force Committee, I am particularly concerned with the lack of field experience opportunities for students at the undergraduate and Master's level. I am not alone in this respect. It is shared by many professional geologists from all segments of the profession including the petroleum industry and the engineering and environmental sectors. The complexities of Precambrian geology are an ideal training ground for practical, hands-on geologists. Therefore I feel your project can substantially aid in producing the well rounded, competent professional geologists that are needed by both industry and government.

Sincerely yours,
MINNESOTA EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION


Ernest K. Lehmann CPG 583
President

Cc: Marcus Milling, Executive Director AGI
Cindy Martinez, AGI
Larry Webbers, President A.I.P.G.
Bill Siok, Executive Director, A.I.P.G.
Dick Backstrom, Secretary, MExA