

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Dean M. Peterson, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate,  
Economic Geology Group, Natural Resources Research Institute,  
University of Minnesota, Duluth,  
5013 Miller Trunk Highway,  
Duluth, MN 55811

Dear Dean:

I am writing to confirm my strong support for the proposal that you and others are leading for the establishment of a Precambrian Research Center in Duluth.

As you know, geological survey agencies continue to be essential services that respond to the needs of society, in relation to economic prosperity, natural hazards, public health, as well as appreciation and preservation of our natural heritage.

Agencies such as the one that I direct, however, are increasingly facing challenges in the recruitment of adequately trained junior members of our profession.

I therefore note with enthusiasm your commitment to produce the research and well-trained professionals that we in geological survey agencies will require.

A critical factor in the success of this preparation is the development of adequate field skills, in a manner that is balanced with office and laboratory skills, and I am pleased to see that this is your emphasis.

Your proposal also is an exciting example of an excellent approach to building a collaborative network of scientists and agencies who together will achieve greater success than they would by pursuing these objectives separately.

I therefore will be pleased to assist the progress of your proposal in any way that I can.

Sincerely,



Harvey Thorleifson, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director  
Minnesota Geological Survey