

Subsurface Solutions
615 Elm Street
Batavia
Illinois 60510.

March 9th 2006.

To whom it may concern.

Dear sir or madam:

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the initiative under development by Dean M. Peterson (NRRI) and James D. Miller (MGS) to establish a "Precambrian Research Center" (PRC) at the Natural Resource Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

There is an urgent need in our industry to increase the quality and depth of training students and practitioners receive in the mapping of Pre-Cambrian rock geology. The need for improved practices in the areas of geological mapping is becoming ever-more important as communities strive to make better construction and land-use decisions. To support better decision making processes better skills are required in the collection and reporting of geologic data and in the development of more accurate and detailed models of the geologic structure.

Engineering disciplines, such as mine, rely heavily upon the accuracy of geologic models in order to safely and reliably design and construct new infrastructure while providing adequate protection for our precious natural resources. Better training in data collection and interpretative skills as could be learned at the PRC will allow trainees to better model the solid earth and permit a fuller exploitation of the sophisticated 3-D modeling software we now have at our disposal.

As proposed, the PRC will provide an excellent opportunity for students, faculty and industry professionals to better master and integrate the field and software skills required to improve the quality of geologic models.

I whole-heartedly support the establishment of the PRC at the NRRI.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Laughton P.E. Ph.D.