



## **IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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December 23, 2016

Dr. Mark Peters, Director  
Idaho National Laboratory  
2525 Fremont Ave  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Dear Director Peters:

We are writing to express our strong support for the collaborative effort of the Idaho State Board of Education (Board) and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to seek financing for the construction of two new facilities near the Center for Advanced Energy Studies in Idaho Falls. We believe these buildings, and the programs they will host, will result in tremendous benefits for the State of Idaho and strengthen the regional impact of our universities.

The proposal makes sense fiscally for the State of Idaho. The Board and INL are working with the State Building Authority to secure legislative approval to issue bonds for the construction of two buildings in Idaho Falls – one for the Cybercore and one for the Collaborative Computing Center (C3). As proposed, INL will lease the buildings from the State of Idaho, with lease payments of an amount equal to the State's debt service costs.

In addition to construction and lease payments, INL will make significant investments in staffing which will lead to the immediate hiring of 200 new employees at an average annual salary of \$85,000. The return on investment for this project can be measured by these types of direct economic impact to the state, and the significant research and education opportunities it will provide for our faculty and students in the areas of cyber security, computer science and engineering.

Idaho's public universities are formally designated as partners with Battelle in Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA). This partnership goes well beyond our long-established positive relationship in the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). The three institutions are among a very small group of world-class leaders in the areas of cyber security and nuclear energy research,

development, and demonstration. The two new facilities will enhance our collective expertise in these critical, globally-significant disciplines and allow our institutions to remain in that leadership position for many years, even decades, into the future. Quite frankly, if we don't make these investments, other states, universities, or laboratories will fill the void.

Across the three universities, we offer technical certificate, Associate, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees in:

Computer Science	Energy Systems Instrumentation Engineering Technology
Civil Engineering	Energy Systems Cyber-Physical Security
Cybersecurity	Energy Systems Technology
Engineering and Applied Science	Energy Systems Renewable Energy Technology
Electrical Engineering	Energy Systems Wind Engineering
Engineering Management	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Environmental Engineering	Energy Systems Mechanical Engineering Technology
Materials Science and Engineering	Energy Systems Nuclear Operations Technology
Mechanical Engineering	Energy Systems Electrical Engineering Technology
Nuclear Science and Engineering	Power System Protection

In addition to enhancing these degree programs, there are opportunities to grow programs in microelectronics fabrication, computer modeling and simulation, and control systems cybersecurity. The INL proposal includes on-site education and intern opportunities for students in these degree programs. Additionally, our faculty will have access to the supercomputing capability of C3 along with research and development opportunities.

With that in mind, we desire and expect to play a strategic role in the future of Idaho's economy and education through cooperation with INL in the development and utilization of these two facilities. Indeed, this project goes beyond our collective ability to address national challenges in electrical grid and critical infrastructure protection and nuclear technology development to include the ability to enhance our current academic programs and establish new programs that will grow, attract, and retain the talent needed today and into the future. It is our hope, indeed our expectation, to grow that talent right here in Idaho, at each of our institutions, and in collaboration with INL. These are strategic initiatives for our institutions and areas of growth that lead beyond the needs of INL to other major state employers, as well as national and international industries.

In conclusion, the Board, its universities, and INL are already strong partners in addressing cyber security challenges and the advancement of new and environmentally-essential nuclear technologies. Collaboration in these two facilities is in the overwhelming best interests of all of us – and that collaboration presents significant and lasting benefit for Idaho's public universities and Idaho's best and brightest students.

We look forward to working with you toward the approval of state financing for Cybercore and C3. We look forward even more to the potential this collaboration holds for our students, our institutions, and our state. We are confident that this collaboration is in the best interests of all Idahoans.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arthur C. Vailas  
Idaho State University



Dr. Bob Kustra  
Boise State University



Dr. Chuck Staben  
University of Idaho



Dr. Tony Fernandez  
Lewis-Clark State College



Dr. Jeff Fox  
College of Southern Idaho



Dr. Bert Glandon  
College of Western Idaho



Dr. Rick MacLennan  
North Idaho College



Dr. Rick Aman  
Eastern Idaho Technical College

Cc: Governor Butch Otter  
Lt. Governor Brad Little  
Emma Atchley, Idaho State Board of Education  
Matt Freeman, Idaho State Board of Education



9 January 2017

The Honorable Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Idaho Capitol  
700 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 228  
Boise, ID 83720

Esteemed Governor Otter:

As the elected representatives of the citizens of Idaho Falls, we wish to express our strong support for the joint State of Idaho-Idaho National Laboratory collaboration for the development of two new, world-class research facilities in Idaho Falls.

Idaho Falls is a proud host to INL and its talented workforce. Our community takes great pride in the accomplishments of that workforce and INL's many successes in helping resolve the nation's pressing energy and national security challenges. And we know that staying on the cutting edge of innovation in these highly technical areas requires the collaborative efforts of INL and the many stakeholders who support it.

Perhaps no stakeholder is more important to a vibrant future for INL than the State of Idaho and its institutions of higher learning. For this reason, and many more, the City of Idaho Falls lends it full and enthusiastic support to the collaborative effort of the Lab and the State Board of Education to build these facilities on the INL's Idaho Falls campus. These facilities will enhance and expand existing world class capabilities in the areas of cyber security and nuclear modeling and simulation.

One of the proposed new facilities, the Cybercore Integration Center, will house existing and expanding research into INL's critical infrastructure protection efforts and the security of control systems as they seek to guard our nation against cyber threats. The other proposed facility, the Collaborative Computing Center will house INL's next generation super computer, which will be used to support nuclear energy research, as well as cyber security research and other Lab missions.

It is also important to note that INL has a clear need to continue developing a talent pipeline in these critical research areas. And it is very encouraging the Lab has a willingness to build that pipeline right here in Idaho and in cooperation with the state's colleges and universities. We view an expanding INL campus and an expanding workforce as very desirable opportunities and are even now working on plans and solutions to meet the associated challenges.

Both facilities will require extensive collaboration with Idaho's colleges and universities and enhance their capabilities -- on-site at INL and on their home campuses through the IRON Network. With that in mind, we were pleased to learn that each of Idaho's universities and colleges, including Idaho Falls' Eastern Idaho Technical College, also support this effort. You are aware of our community's renewed appreciation for higher education as we press forward with consideration of establishing a community college district.

Governor, keeping Idaho's best and brightest here at home, and ensuring they have significant economic opportunities is a goal we share. We are optimistic that development of these two new facilities and the opportunities they'll create will benefit Idaho colleges, universities, and most importantly, our students.

We express our gratitude for your strong support of this collaborative effort and offer you the City of Idaho Falls' unconditional support toward approval of the required joint resolution in the Idaho Legislature.

Best regards,



Rebecca Casper, Mayor

Thomas Hally, Council President



Ed Marohn, Council Member  
Member



Barbara Ehardt, Council Member



David Smith, Council



Michelle Ziel-Dingman, Council Member



John Radford, Council Member



cc: President Pro Tempore Brent Hill  
Speaker Rep. Scott Bedke  
Senator Bart Davis  
Senator Dean Mortimer  
Rep. Jeff Thompson  
Rep. Wendy Horman  
Rep. Janet Trujillo  
Rep. Bryan Zollinger  
Dr. Mark Peters, Director, INL



January 10, 2017

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

Regional Economic Development for Eastern Idaho (REDI) and our many investors would like to offer support for the State of Idaho – Idaho National Laboratory partnership to build two new research facilities in Idaho Falls.

One of REDI's primary missions in advancing economic opportunities in eastern Idaho is to promote the work conducted at INL, highlight its impact on the regional and state economies, and advocate for the future vitality and growth of INL-related programs.

The economic and educational value of a national laboratory focused on energy and national security is not lost on economic development leaders in other states. The competition is fierce for the programs that already exist here in Idaho. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us, as a region and state, to protect the key economic differentiator of having a national lab in our backyard by advancing this exciting partnership.

As you know, INL is a major economic driver for eastern Idaho and our state. According to a recent economic impact summary for fiscal year 2016, INL contributes an annual positive value of \$1.9 billion to Idaho's total economic output – an increase of 20.4 percent, or nearly \$324 million, between 2015 and 2016. INL is growing and our state benefits from that growth.

INL employs nearly 4,100 people directly and is indirectly responsible for more than 7,000 additional jobs. Last year alone, INL hired 482 people into careers with an average salary exceeding \$92,000 annually.

INL's current annual business volume recently surpassed \$1 billion and the Lab increased personal income in the state by \$795 million in FY 2016. INL job and business volume increases are primarily in its national and homeland security and nuclear energy research divisions.

Specific areas of expanded research include critical infrastructure protection, high-performance computing, cybersecurity, small modular reactors and the development of next generation nuclear technologies.





December 1, 2016

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Washington State University

Dr. Mark Peters  
Laboratory Director  
Idaho National Laboratory  
2525 Fremont Ave  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Dear Dr. Peters:

We are writing to express our support for the effort to establish a partnership between the State of Idaho and Idaho National Laboratory in the development of two new research facilities on the Lab's Idaho Falls campus.

As you know, the IRON Network is a high-speed regional optical network that focuses on serving research, healthcare, and education in Idaho. IRON is nonprofit with our primary purpose to enable researchers and educators in the transfer of "big data" between research entities, the national laboratory system and the health sector. IRON's charter associates include the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Idaho State University, Brigham Young University-Idaho, the Idaho Hospital Association, the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, the State of Idaho and its Department of Administration, Washington State University, and Idaho National Laboratory (INL). With that in mind, IRON is a critical component enabling the advancement of research and economic development with cost effective very high speed bandwidth across the State of Idaho.

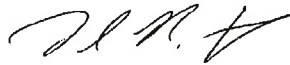
Because of the critical link IRON provides between leading innovators and research institutions in the region, our board of directors and member institutions are keenly interested in efforts to expand educational opportunities in the state. Therefore, we are supportive of efforts to build on both the State of Idaho's and INL's world-class capabilities in the critically important areas of cyber security and super-computing.

We believe the development of these two facilities, through a state/INL partnership, will significantly expand several unique capabilities already present within the Lab and Idaho's colleges and universities. Further, we believe the development of these facilities, and the desire to fully utilize their capabilities across the state, will necessitate an expansion and modernization of IRON infrastructure that is long overdue.

We appreciate the desire of INL to work with us toward the expansion of the IRON network and the utilization of its capabilities in collaboration with the Lab's new cyber security and super-computing facilities.

We stand ready to work with the State Board of Education, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho's colleges and universities, and the State of Idaho in any way we can to support this critical effort.

Sincerely,



Dan Ewart  
IRON President



Brian Whitlock  
IRON Vice President

Cc: Marilyn Whitney, Office of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Matt Freeman, State Board of Education





November 11, 2016

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor  
State of Idaho  
Capital Building  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

We write to express our strong support for efforts to secure public/private financing options for two proposed facilities on Idaho National Laboratory's University Boulevard Campus in Idaho Falls.

It is our understanding that the Idaho State Board of Education has voted overwhelmingly to move forward with plans to issue state bonds toward the construction of two new buildings called *Cybercore* and the *Collaborative Computing Center*, or C3. Further, it is our understanding Idaho National Laboratory (INL) will lease both facilities from the State Board of Education for a minimum of ten years, but likely for decades into the future. Finally, it is our understanding that the State Board of Education requires legislative approval, in the form of a Joint Resolution of the Idaho House and Senate, in order to move forward with the bonding process.

We offer our support of the Joint Resolution and the effort to construct these facilities through the utilization of a state/INL partnership. We applaud this innovative financing model even as we recognize several other substantive reasons why the project must move forward. They include:

- LINE Commission 2.0 is charged, in part, with furthering the recommendations of LINE Commission 1.0 and has consistently sought, and supported, stronger collaboration between the State of Idaho and INL. INL is a critical Idaho asset and the more the State of Idaho can support the Lab and utilize its capabilities, the better. For instance, LINE 1.0 issued the following recommendations, found on pages 20-21 of the Commission's Executive Summary document, which speak directly to the value of this partnership:
  - *"From a capability consolidation and operational collaboration perspective, the state – through the Nuclear Advisory Council should advocate as appropriate for non-nuclear capabilities and infrastructure improvements and for expanded use of INL facilities by other federal agencies in diverse areas such as emergency first response training, regulatory support, physical and cyber security, and supercomputing."*
  - *"Having reviewed this infrastructure and sought expert input, the Commission believes the State of Idaho should charge the proposed Idaho Nuclear Advisory Council with reviewing and, as appropriate, identifying avenues and means for the state to support, through advocacy and appropriate investment incentives, efforts to bring additional facilities, capabilities, and programs to INL. This could include new or restored reactor, post-irradiation examination, energy system demonstration and computing capabilities."*

- The expansion of the cyber security and super-computing assets of INL will enhance and maintain unique, world-class capabilities and protect INL's position as a leader in these vital areas for decades into the future.
- The facilities are needed because of strong growth and national demand in these critical research areas. The combined facilities will host approximately 400 additional lab employees earning great wages and establishing life-long careers right here in Idaho.
- The facilities represent tremendous capability expansion for Idaho's three major universities. The facilities will demand significant collaboration with Boise State University, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho, expand course offerings, and ensure Idaho students become a critical component of the necessary talent pipeline for cyber security and nuclear modeling and simulation jobs at the lab and elsewhere.

For these and many more reasons, we are pleased to offer you, the Idaho Legislature, the State Board of Education, and INL our strong endorsement of this effort. Further, we wish to thank you for the leadership you have shown in supporting this effort and assisting the State Board and INL in the furtherance of this important partnership.

Sincerely,



John Grossenbacher  
Co-Chair



Lt. Gov. Brad Little  
Co-Chair