



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

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January 20, 2003

Prof. Philip R. Goode
Director, Big Bear Solar Observatory
40386 North Shore Lane
Big Bear City, CA 92314-9672

Dear Professor Goode:

I am writing this letter to strongly support the 1.6 m telescope project (NST) at Big Bear Solar Observatory and express our greatest interest in a resulting transfer of your current 65 cm telescope to Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU).

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) is the leading institution of university-based solar physics research in the US. It operates the world-well-known Big Bear Solar Observatory (BBSO). BBSO has been extremely productive in research and education since it was taken over by NJIT. The proposed new telescope is well justified by its excellent seeing, strong research group, and strong support for space missions and space weather.

PVAMU is an HBCU with more than 95% African-American student enrollment. With funding from NSF and NASA we have established the Prairie View Solar Observatory (PVSO) on the campus of PVAMU. We currently operate a 35 cm telescope. We propose to take over your current 65 cm telescope after you set up the new telescope. Once the 65 cm telescope is transferred to PVSO, a new observational building will be constructed, and the whole system will be upgraded. This upgrade will enhance PVSO's research and education efforts, and strengthen PVAMU's ability in fostering Master and Ph. D. degree students in sciences and engineering majors. In addition, we will collaborate with the BBSO research group in the prediction of space weather.

I strongly support your NST project and look forward to taking over the 65 cm telescope.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tian-Sen Huang".

Tian-Sen Huang

Director, Prairie View Solar Observatory