



## THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Pasadena, California 91125

Steven E. Koonin  
Vice President and Provost  
Professor of Theoretical Physics

(626) 395-6336  
FAX (626) 795-1898

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Professor Philip R. Goode  
Director, Big Bear Solar Observatory  
40386 N. Shore Lane  
Big Bear City, CA 92314

Dear Phil:

I am pleased to write in support of your NSF MRI proposal for a 1.6m clear-aperture telescope.

Although I am not a solar astronomer myself, I do serve on the BBSO advisory committee. I am also very familiar with the observatory's operations as a member of the "night shift" observing earthshine with the BBSO facilities for the past five years. In those capacities, I have been impressed with the competence and dedication of the BBSO staff, and the many improvements that have been made since NJIT took over operations from Caltech. Particularly noteworthy are the steps to make it a true user facility and the staff's ability to undertake complex technical efforts, such as the new instrumentation on the existing BBSO telescope.

University facilities play a special dual role in research and education, allowing the discovery of new knowledge while training the next generation of researchers. I've seen this happen first hand at BBSO during the past five years, and expect that the proposed new telescope would serve very well in this same tradition. Further, it would put the world's largest aperture solar telescope at a superb site in the US, keeping pace with developments in Europe.

In sum, this looks to me like an excellent project, combining science, technology, and education, and I can endorse it most strongly.

Yours sincerely,

Steven E. Koonin