

November 19, 2012

Dr. C. Denise Caldwell  
Division Director  
Division of Physics  
4201 Wilson Boulevard Room 1015  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Director Caldwell:

We the undersigned 551 members of the FRIB Users Organization, which represents the users of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL), are writing to give our strongest affirmation that operation of the Reaccelerated Beam Project, ReA3, at the NSCL should be a high priority for the National Science Foundation.

The user community has consistently expressed the importance of ReA3 to both the NSCL leadership and to Michigan State University: it will enable us to perform experiments with reaccelerated beams following in-flight separation and gas stopping, a new and unique scientific capability that does not exist anywhere else in the world.

This unique capability will enable us to carry out world-leading research programs, for example, to delineate the interactions that bind nucleons together into complex nuclei. ReA3 will also allow us to measure key nuclear reactions that power stellar explosions and that are needed to model and understand the chemical history of the Universe. The NSCL has received 37 letters of intent for programs with ReA3 from our membership. Many of our members have been working for years to develop experimental equipment to be used in connection with ReA3, e.g., the NSF funded MRI proposals for the AT-TPC and ANASEN, and the JENSA project funded in part by JINA. ReA3 is also an essential step on the path to FRIB: experiments with ReA3 now will allow us to develop programs and equipment that will undoubtedly lead to early breakthroughs when FRIB becomes operational.

As the NSF decides on the future funding of NSCL, we urge you to keep operations of ReA3 as a high priority. Bringing ReA3 into operations requires \$2 M in incremental funding as compared to previous NSCL operations without ReA3 (as was the case until FY2011). The minimum cost in FY2013 for bringing ReA3 into operations and allowing 4,000 hrs of NSCL operations for users has been peer-reviewed and authorized by the National Science Board. Our members rely on NSCL's world-leading capabilities for their research, and we urge you to approve NSCL in FY2013 and beyond at the level authorized by National Science Board. If there is any further information we can provide, we would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

The following undersigned Members of the FRIB Users Organization\*

\* We are signing of our own accord and not on behalf of the institution for which we are employed.

cc: Dr. Gerald Blazey, Assistant Director OSTP  
cc: Dr. Bradley D. Keister, Deputy Division Director NSF  
cc: Dr. Joydip Kundu, Program Examiner OMB  
cc: Dr. Subra Suresh, Director NSF

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