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FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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Centre of Administration and Operations
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (the world's largest organization of applied geophysicists), I am deeply concerned about the plans to reduce the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than 50% over the next three years. If realized, these funding cuts would jeopardize one of the pillars of international science and research.

Important scientific research has been achieved by this institution and the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research. I have personally attended geophysical meetings in the Czech Republic initiated by the Academy and have found the papers to be world-class, especially in the field of seismic modeling. In theoretical seismology, Czech scientists have been world leaders over the past five decades.

I am firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of both the Czech Republic and the international scientific community. I strongly urge the Czech government to reconsider the planned reductions and to keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at a level that will make significant scientific progress possible.

Please feel free to contact me at 403-220-2796 at the University of Calgary or e-mail lrines@ucalgary.ca if you require further support for the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Laurence R. Lines
Professor, Department of Geoscience, University of Calgary
President, Society of Exploration Geophysicists