


KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

24 July 2009

Prof. Jiří Drahoš
President, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Národní 3
117 20 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Dear Prof. Drahoš:

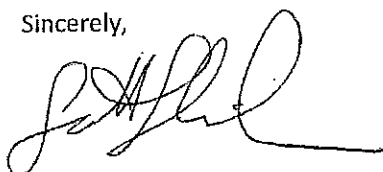
I am writing to express my concern with the plans to severely cut the funding of your Academy of Sciences over the coming years. As editor in chief of the *International Journal of Biometeorology*, I have worked with several members of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, including Radan Huth, and can attest to their significant contributions to applied climatology, bioclimatology, and synoptic climatology.

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is perceived throughout the world as one of leading institutions in the scientific and cultural tradition in Europe. Important results have been obtained by this institution and further achievements can be expected as there is a number of world-class scientists in the Academy.

The severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of the economy is impossible without strong science and research. Drastic budget cuts will preclude Czech scientists from continuing to contribute to science as they have in the past. In addition, the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research. It will take at least a generation to recover from a hit of this magnitude.

I am firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. I urge the Government of the Czech Republic to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the level that will make this development possible.

Sincerely,



Scott Sheridan
Associate Professor
Editor-in-chief, *International Journal of Biometeorology*

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