

September 11, 2009

Prof. Ing. Jiří Drahoš
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School of Engineering Dear Professor Drahoš,

Department of
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Terence G. Langdon

William E. Leonhard
Professor of Engineering &
Professor of Aerospace &
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Materials Science and
Earth Sciences

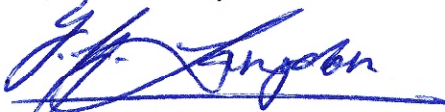
My colleagues in the Czech Republic have brought to my attention the article in Nature in July 2009 concerning the proposed cuts in government funding for the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. I am writing to express my considerable concern for these planned cuts and to give my strongest support for my Czech research colleagues.

I have a long association with the Czech Republic dating back to the early 1970's when I was establishing a laboratory at the University of Southern California in the field of the high temperature creep of metals. At that time, the strongest research center in this field in Europe was the group of Professor Josef Čadek at the Institute of Physics of Materials in Brno. I visited this institute, established a strong relationship with Professor Čadek, and continued to collaborate with the members of the institute after his death. This close collaboration has continued to this day and indeed I regularly publish scientific articles with my colleagues in Brno, most notably with Professor Václav Sklenička who is the former Director of the institute.

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has a world-wide reputation for excellence. Certainly in my field of Metallurgy/Materials Science I can state categorically that you have one of the strongest scientific academies in Europe. Please feel free to make use of this letter in any way that may seem appropriate to strengthen your request for strong support from the government of the Czech Republic.

With my best personal regards and my hopes for your success,

Yours sincerely,



Terence G. Langdon

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