



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA OBSERVATORIES/LICK OBSERVATORY
DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

January 12, 2006

Dr. Wayne Van Citters, Division Director
Division of Astronomical Sciences, MPS, NSF

Dr. Robin Staffin, Associate Director
Office of High Energy Physics, Office of Science, DOE

Dr Anne Kinney, Director, Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate, NASA

Dear Dr Van Citters, Dr Staffin and Dr Kinney:

At its last meeting the AAAC discussed the report from the Task Force on CMB Research (TFCR). The AAAC approved the report and voted to transmit it to the agencies for their consideration.

The AAAC was very impressed with the quality and depth of the report. It clearly reflects a very substantial and thoughtful effort by the TFCR committee. We have sent a letter to the TFCR chair, Rainer Weiss, to thank the TFCR committee for the report and for their considerable investment of time and intellectual effort on its content.

This AAAC recommends that the agencies use the report to provide guidance on their deliberations on CMB-related issues and opportunities. In addition, the AAAC specifically notes the value of utilizing the report recommendations as guidance for establishing a framework for funding opportunities, and as guidance for peer-review committees when evaluating proposals in the CMB arena.

As noted in the letter to Prof. Rainer Weiss, the TFCR was the first example of an interagency task force chartered under the auspices of the AAAC. We appreciate both the experience gained from this activity and the excellence of the report.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Committee,

Garth D. Illingworth,
Chair, Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

Cc:

NSF: Eileen Friel, Nigel Sharp, Dana Lehr

NASA: Michael Salamon, Paul Hertz

DOE: Kathy Turner.

AAAC Members:

Neta Bahcall, Princeton

John Carlstrom, Chicago

Bruce Carney, UNC/Chapel Hill

Wendy Freedman, Carnegie

Katherine Freese, Michigan

Robert Kirshner, Harvard

Daniel Lester, Texas/Austin

Angela Olinto, Chicago

Rene Ong, UCLA

Sterl Phinney, Caltech

Catherine Pilachowski, Indiana

Abhijit Saha, NOAO