



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

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

June 30, 2006

Professor Edward Kolb  
Chair, Dark Energy Task Force

Dear Rocky:

The AAAC would like to thank you and your committee for your very thorough and detailed report. The DETF report clearly reflects a major investment of time and intellectual effort by the committee members. We particularly appreciate the effort the committee put into explaining the importance of dark energy research, soliciting input from the broad community interested in dark energy, establishing quantitative metrics, the thoughtful consideration of the value and challenges of different scientific approaches to tackling dark energy, and for laying out a coordinated program for how to proceed. The report provides an impressive framework for making choices.

The AAAC discussed your report at its last meeting and subsequently voted to accept it and transmit it to the agencies for their consideration. We will be discussing with the agencies the steps that they plan to take to respond to the report. We have asked them also to make full use of the recommendations in your report when they develop plans relating to dark energy activities, and when proposals are reviewed for programs in the areas covered by your report.

We also appreciated your willingness to visit with the AAAC and to keep us updated on the DETF committee's progress with presentations at AAAC meetings.

The challenges facing astronomy and astrophysics are many, and increasing. The guidance provided by your report will be very particularly important for the agencies, OSTP, OMB, Congress and the scientific community as we work to move forward on dark energy projects expeditiously and cost-effectively. We deeply appreciate the time and effort that you and the task force members put into making the DETF report such an excellent product.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Committee,

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

Cc:

NSF: Judith Sunley, Wayne Van Citters, Eileen Friel, Dana Lehr, Nigel Sharp

NASA: Paul Hertz, Rick Howard, Michael Salamon, Ron Hellings

DOE: Robin Staffin, Kathy Turner

OSTP: Rob Dimeo, Jon Morse

DETF Committee Members:

Andreas Albrecht, Gary Bernstein, Robert Cahn, Wendy Freedman,  
Jacqueline Hewitt, Wayne Hu, John Huth, Marc Kamionkowski,  
Lloyd Knox, John Mather, Suzanne Staggs, Nicholas Suntzeff

AAAC: Neta Bahcall, John Carlstrom.

Bruce Carney, Wendy Freedman,  
Katherine Freese, Robert Kirshner,  
Daniel Lester, Angela Olinto,  
Rene Ong, Sterl Phinney,  
Catherine Pilachowski, Abhijit Saha