



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

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 9506

January 12, 2006

Professor Rainer Weiss
Department of Physics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Rai:

The AAAC would like to thank you and your committee for your very thorough and detailed report. The TFCR report clearly reflected a considerable investment of time and intellectual effort by the committee members. We particularly appreciated your committee's willingness to respond to some of our initial concerns and your efforts to solicit input from the broad community, both during the development of the report and for a review of a draft version. The report was strengthened by these efforts.

The AAAC discussed your report at its last meeting and voted to accept it and transmit it to the agencies for their consideration. We asked the agencies to make full use of the recommendations in your report when they develop plans relating to CMB 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 TFCR committee's progress with presentations at AAAC meetings.

The challenges facing astronomy and astrophysics are many, and increasing, so the guidance provided by reports such as yours will be increasingly important for the agencies, OSTP, OMB and Congress.

The AAAC values the experience that you provided as one of the first interagency task forces undertaken under the wing of the AAAC. Your report set the bar high.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Committee,

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

Cc:

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

NASA: Paul Hertz, Anne Kinney, Michael Salamon

DOE: Robin Staffin, Kathy Turner

TFCR Committee Members:

James Bock, Sarah Church, Mark Devlin, Gary Hinshaw, Andrew Lange,
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