

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

December 21, 2004



OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of October 18, 2004. I can confirm that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has been very pleased with the support that VECO has provided our research community in often very challenging circumstances in Alaska and throughout the rest of the Arctic. Their professionalism and can-do spirit has gained compliments from many of the researchers they have supported. As I think you are aware, Federal Acquisition Regulations prevent me from discussing an ongoing procurement, even to the degree I cannot confirm if VECO is competing for the work. However, I have every confidence that our Division of Contracts and Complex Agreements working with the Office of Polar Programs will run the procurement in a fair and effective manner.

I too am sorry that we were unable to meet on October 7th; however, I appreciated the kind efforts of your staff to get us together.

Thank you for your support for our work in the Arctic and best wishes for the holiday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arden L. Bement, Jr.'.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director



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