May 4, 2011

The Honorable Alberta Darling
The Honorable Robin Vos
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Finance
Wisconsin State Legislature
Room 305 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Support for New Badger Partnership and UW-Madison Public Authority Status

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Vos:

The Board of Visitors for the Department of Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is writing to express its strong support for the New Badger Partnership and UW-Madison Public Authority Status. The Geoscience Board is a volunteer alumni group, consisting of 12 Active Board Members and 17 Senior Advisors that supports activities, such as mentoring UW-Madison geoscience students, and raises funds for student fellowships and other needs of the Department of Geoscience on the Madison campus. Our membership includes geoscientists employed across Wisconsin and around the nation in a wide range of activities, including academia, environmental geology, hydrogeology, mining, petroleum exploration and development, and state and federal agencies. We share a common bond in having received first-rate educations and conducted research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison - activities that have led to successful careers.

The Madison institution not only provides exceptional educational opportunities and job creation for the citizens of Madison and the State of Wisconsin, UW-Madison is nationally recognized for producing graduates of the highest caliber, including those in geoscience. Several of us on the Board of Visitors have been involved in recruiting candidates for our companies and can attest that they are in high demand. To maintain this caliber of graduate, it is essential that the Madison campus continue its premier status as an educational and research organization, with top faculty and supporting resources. Accomplishing this requires the campus to have the authority to manage its finances and resources and effectively compete for top faculty and students. Given current and likely future financial constraints on the University and the State of Wisconsin, the Board thinks that this will be best accomplished through the New Badger Partnership and UW-Madison Public Authority Status.

Therefore, the Board of Visitors for the Department of Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison strongly urges you to support both initiatives.

Sincerely,

William A. Morgan, ‘77
Chair
Board of Visitors for the Department of Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

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cc.

The Honorable Scott Walker, Governor, State of Wisconsin
Dr. Biddy Martin, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dr. Gary Sandefur, Dean, School of Letters and Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dr. Clifford Thurber, Chair, Department of Geosciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison