

February 25, 2010

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Ball State University
Geothermal Conversion Project
Muncie, Indiana**

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins work on the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations process, I ask that funds be included in the U.S. Department of Energy's budget for continuation of Ball State University's geothermal conversion project. Specifically, Ball State University seeks \$3.5 million in the FY11 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to continue construction of the project's next phase.

Ball State has made a strong commitment to sustainable practices and is working toward a climate neutral campus. Last year, while addressing replacement of an aging power plant, we opted for an emissions-free geothermal heat pump design. As you know, geothermal heat pump technology takes advantage of the constant temperature of the ground, using the earth as either a heat source or a heat sink. While this technology has been used in small residential and commercial applications for decades, new technology now enables its deployment on a larger scale.

Our project includes construction of two well fields, containing a total of 4100 individual boreholes - each 400 feet deep. Through these wells, pure water will be circulated in closed pipes allowing the transfer of heat to and from three energy centers. Once completed, the project will allow the university to eliminate 85,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year while saving \$2 million in annual energy costs. I am pleased to note that all components of the system are American made.

I am thankful for your past support for this project and appreciate your consideration of this request. I am aware that the practice of Congressional earmarking has come under increased scrutiny in recent years, and am grateful for your leadership to restore public confidence in that process. Ball State University has carefully evaluated this project to ensure that it is in the public interest and worthy of your advocacy.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Gora, Ph.D.
President