

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2006

President John G. Peters  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear President Peters:

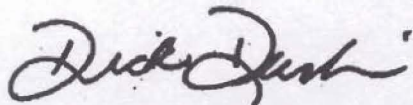
The proposed Northern Illinois Proton Radiation Treatment and Research Center at the DuPage National Technology Park in West Chicago offers the hope of advanced treatments for cancers in the head, brain, neck, lung and prostate, as well as pediatric cancers. We commend your leadership in seeking to make this life-saving technology available in Illinois, and we fully support the project.

Proton radiation therapy technology originated at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia in the 1980s, with investigators at Argonne National Laboratory collaborating with Fermi and Loma Linda University (CA) on the design for a hospital-based proton accelerator. No private manufacturer in Illinois would commit to commercializing the technology at the time, so the first proton radiation facility for treating patients was built at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California in 1990 – with a proton accelerator and beam support system that was designed and built at Fermilab.

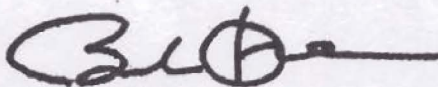
We are pleased to see your plan to finally make the treatment options offered by this technology available in Illinois. The Northern Illinois Proton Radiation Treatment and Research Center would bring cutting edge cancer treatment to the people of Illinois; serve as a regional cancer treatment resource for Illinois and the Midwest; establish a world-class particle therapy cancer treatment and research facility; and educate and train health professionals to serve in the particle therapy field. Your staff estimates the project would lead to approximately 800 construction jobs while the facility is being built and 300 new high-wage, high-skill jobs once the facility is fully operational.

We support the proposed Northern Illinois Proton Radiation Treatment and Research Center, which will offer hope to patients who may have nowhere else to turn and enhance Illinois' position as a leading provider of cutting edge health care technologies. We look forward to working with you as you endeavor to turn this visionary plan into a reality.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



Barack Obama  
United States Senator