March 30, 2010

Dr. John Yelton, Chairman
Department of Physics
P.O. Box 118440
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Dr. Yelton:

I regret that I am unable to join you for this day-long celebration of the start of the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland, but I appreciate the chance to thank you for your contributions toward particle research. This is especially timely, as Rep. Bart Gordon, Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, has invited me to join him at the end of next month in visiting the Large Hadron Collider and to meet with researchers.

It is a distinct honor for me to represent the University of Florida, a world-renown institution of learning and research. New technologies and innovations not only broaden the scope of human knowledge, they bring about new products and services that enrich us all.

The Large Hadron Collider was built to steer speeding atomic particles into direct collisions, recreating conditions following the Big Bang. Central to this effort in the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector to record what happens when the particles collide. Physicists, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students at the University of Florida have been deeply involved in the CMS.

This is incredible research and it is exciting that the University of Florida is playing a major role. I certainly understand the reason for your celebration and I congratulate you on the successes you will achieve.

Again, my best wishes to you all and thank you for keeping the University of Florida at the vanguard of vital research.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Cliff Stearns
United States Representative