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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
NEVADA STATE OFFICE OF ENERGY

December 2, 2011

National Science Foundation  
Small Business Innovation Research Program Phase I  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear SBIR Proposal Reviewer:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Apollo Bioenergy's proposal for the National Science Foundation Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase One funding opportunity 11-577. Apollo Bioenergy has partnered with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) on a feasibility study that details fundamental research into a means to convert forestry waste into propane fuel.

There are an estimated 90 million tons of Pinyon Pine and Juniper biomass in Nevada. It is important that these forest fuel loads be reduced to improve wildlife habitat and decrease fire risk. Efforts to economically utilize forestry residue have met with limited success thus far.

With this grant funding and analytical support from DRI, Apollo Bioenergy plans to initially advance the research in this area at their facility in Sparks, Nevada. Once developed, this gas plasma based process will allow biopropane to be commercially produced from forestry waste.

This initiative has the potential to provide new jobs in rural Nevada, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and it fits well with the mission of the Nevada State Office of Energy (NSOE). Recognizing the importance of a good program to assist in making Nevada the renewable energy leader of the nation, the NSOE strongly supports the development of this research in Nevada.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 775-687-1850 if you need anything further. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Crowley".

Stacey Crowley  
Director