



RIA Users Group  
Organization  
Executive Committee

Witek Nazarewicz, Chair  
University of Tennessee

Jim Beene  
Oak Ridge National  
Laboratory

Robert Janssens  
Argonne National  
Laboratory

Kirby Kemper  
Florida State University

I-Yang Lee  
Lawrence Berkeley  
Laboratory

Erich Ormand  
Lawrence Livermore  
National Laboratory

Brad Sherrill  
Michigan State University

Gene Sprouse  
SUNY – Stony Brook

Michael C. Wiescher  
University of Notre Dame

Dear Member of Congress:

We write to request your support for the Rare Isotope Accelerator (RIA), the world's most powerful research facility for the production and study of thousands of isotopes that do not exist naturally on earth. Research at RIA will lead to exciting discoveries about the origin of nature's elements (from carbon and oxygen to uranium), the inner workings of the nucleus lying at the core of every atom, and will test our understanding of the fundamental laws of physics. Recent U.S. advances in theory, accelerator technology, and experimental techniques have made it possible to seize the leadership in this science and technology. As currently conceived, RIA will be a premier science facility with no international peer.

Worldwide leadership in science and technology has been, and will continue to be, crucial to U.S. economic development and national security. Since the early 1940's, nuclear science has been a field of strategic interest to the United States. Continued leadership in science requires investment in new technologies and facilities. RIA will provide the basis to attract, educate, and train the future generations of scientists, engineers, and technical professionals that are essential for the U.S. to take advantage of the renaissance in nuclear technology and its widespread applicability to medicine, national security, engineering, energy, materials research and the environment. RIA's value in this regard is a vital component in a national strategy to ensure the future availability of scientific and technical talent that is so critical to the nation's economic, industrial, academic, and social well-being.

The Nuclear Science Advisory Committee's (NSAC) 2002 Long Range Plan identified RIA as the highest priority new construction project for the nuclear science research community. Further, RIA was ranked third (in a tie with two other projects) among twenty-eight high-priority Facilities for the Future of Science, that were included in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Twenty-Year Outlook plan released in November 2003. We understand that DOE officials continue to view this plan as a valid statement of DOE's scientific facility priorities.

We understand that the country faces unusual fiscal challenges and will be forced to make many tough decisions in this year's budget and appropriations processes. Under these circumstances, near-term priorities will no doubt take center stage. At the same time, we hope that you will give serious consideration to investing in the future by providing for world-class research facilities, such as RIA, that will pay important dividends in the future by ensuring that the U.S. continues to maintain scientific and technical leadership in areas of strategic interest. For FY 2006, an investment of \$25 M will be needed to move forward with the needed R&D, site selection, and conceptual design activities. In view of the long lead time of this important project, these funds will enable the initiation of early project-related activities that are vital to maintaining the scientific and technical progress that has been made to date and to paving the way for a cost-effective approach for building and operating RIA.