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Dear Dr. Gilfoyle,

On behalf of the Physics Department at the University of Surrey, UK, I am writing to express our full and continued support for your Department of Energy (DoE) research grant application in nuclear physics. This letter also confirms our strong desire to continue to place Surrey masters Master of Physics (MPhys) research students under your direct supervision at the University of Richmond and working at the Jefferson Laboratory. Beginning from our first mutual research student in 2013, all three MPhys student under your supervision, have all been a great successes from our point of view. The first two students graduated with the highest rated ('first-class') UK degree classification, thanks, in no small part to their assessed research project work, carried out under your supervision. (The third student will, as you know, return to Surrey for his final examinations in early 2018 and is also currently on track for to achieve first class honours).

The University of Surrey MPhys research programme is only available for those students on our physics major undergraduate masters programmes, and demands a level of academic achievement which matches the challenging condition given by the UK Research Council required to obtain a doctoral bursary funding. At the point when they begin their research placement, the MPhys students have achieved at least 300 academic university credits from taught courses laboratory work etc. While this is enough to obtain an ordinary bachelors degree (BSc), in the case of the Surrey MPhys programme, they do not exit at this stage, but rather obtain a further 180 academic credits in order to finally graduate with a masters (MPhys) degree. The Surrey MPhys program has now run for more than 20 years. The expectation is that the student is paid a salary/stipend by the host institution on the basis of them being a project-funded research student. In addition to placements within your group at UoR/J-lab, our students have undertaken successful research



placements at many other outstanding international (nuclear) physics research centres over the last two decades, including, but not limited to the Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics at the University of Notre Dame University; The Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory, Yale University; Florida State University; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; The University of Massachusetts (Lowell); the TRIUMF laboratory in Vancouver; and the Nuclear Department at the Australian National University, Canberra. As you are aware, the students remain enrolled in the University of Surrey during their research placement, and their ongoing performance is continually assessed. For each cohort of MPhys research students, the research placement begins in the February and continued until the end of December.

We would be delighted for suitably qualified MPhys research students from the University of Surrey programme to continue to work under your supervision and contribute to your excellent research programme at the J-LAB. On behalf of the Nuclear Physics Group at the University of Surrey, I wish you the best of luck with your current DoE proposal, and sincerely hope we are able to continue the successful collaboration via our mutual students who benefit so much from working with you on your research.

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P.H. Regan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P.H. Regan,
National Physical Laboratory Professor of Radionuclide Metrology
&
Professor of Experimental Nuclear Physics, University of Surrey, UK