

LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

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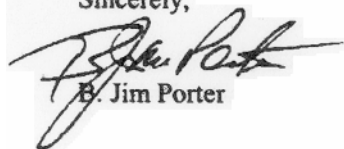
September 6, 2002

Dear Todd:

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association takes great pleasure in endorsing your efforts to establish the Blue Water Technology Consortium (BWTC) at HARC's research campus located in The Woodlands, Texas. The development and deployment of deepwater technologies will have positive impact on our nation's security and economic stability. Your efforts to assist the Navy laboratories in the transfer of their technologies to the offshore and maritime industries are greatly appreciated.

Let us know if we can be of any assistance in the establishment and operation of the BWTC. The deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico create engineering and technological challenges that need to be addressed in order to develop the vast petroleum and natural reserves that may be present in water depths exceeding 5,000 feet. Your program could greatly speed technology migration from the laboratory to the ultra-deep offshore energy industry.

Sincerely,



E. Jim Porter

Cc: Richard Hault
Pete Parsons