



March 15, 2006

The Hon. Conrad Burns, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Appropriations Request for the Center for the Study of Metals in the
Environment

Dear Chariman Burns:

On behalf of the members of the North American Metals Council, this letter requests your support for funding in the amount of \$825,000 for the Center for the Study of Metals in the Environment in the 2007 Appropriations Bill. The Metals Center conducts essential scientific research on the fate, effects, and risks of metals in the environment. This information is critical if we are to develop accurate understanding and scientific models that will allow rational risk assessment of metals-related issues at many sites being addressed under Superfund and other regulatory programs. Among the expected results of projects the Metals Center is planning to undertake are new approaches to lowering the risk of metals in soils, which could substantially decrease cleanup costs at a wide variety of public and private sector sites.

The Metals Center is based at the University of Delaware. The Center's Executive Director, Professor Herbert Allen, can answer any questions you or your staff may have about the Metals Center's operations and plans. He can be reached at (302) 831-8449. A short fact sheet is enclosed providing additional detail on the Metals Center and its work. Please contact Jane Luxton at King & Spalding LLP, (202) 626-2627 (jluxton@kslaw.com) if we can provide any assistance.

We urge you to support this request and appreciate your willingness to consider it.

Sincerely,

William J. Adams, Ph.D., Chair,
North American Metals Council

Enclosure