



January 25, 2008

RE: Support for University of Washington eScience Institute Operating Budget Request

Dear Representative Hunter,

On behalf of the Technical Computing Group at Microsoft, a corporate initiative for Microsoft to partner with the scientific community to accelerate advances in science through computing, we wish to register our strong support for the University of Washington's 2008 supplemental budget request of \$2 million for the eScience Institute Initiative.

Computing plays a critical role in advancing research across almost every field of science today. The state funds being requested will provide essential support for faculty, infrastructure and technical expertise that will position Washington on the leading edge of scientific data collection and analysis and ensure the university's long-term competitiveness for research funding. The establishment of the eScience Institute will position Washington as a leader in this rapidly changing research environment. This investment of state dollars will also help to advance the University of Washington's potential designation as the Northwest implementing organization for the National Science Foundation's NEPTUNE ocean research project.

The Technical Computing Group at Microsoft enjoys an active and multifaceted partnership with the UW in the area of eScience and technical computing. Select examples include a gift from Microsoft in the amount of \$81,000 to Dr Jim Mullins of UW to support research and related activities that advance science and education in HIV T-cell vaccines. Microsoft also provided a gift of \$540,000 over three years to support Professor David Baker's protein folding/unfolding Rosetta@home project. Microsoft is also providing \$827,142 over three years for Dr. Valerie Daggett's molecular dynamics ("MD") simulations research project. And, Microsoft provided Dr. Ed Lazowska with funding of \$220,000 for a collaborative scientific and engineering project to provide NEPTUNE with a scientific workflow workbench for oceanography. These engagements extend a relationship with the University of Washington that has formed over the course of more than ten years and continues to grow, based upon a foundation of mutually beneficial collaboration and trust. We are very pleased to engage with the University of Washington as partners in eScience and technical computing and look forward to continuing this mutually rewarding relationship in the future.

We believe the provision of \$2 million in state funds now will have a significant impact on the University of Washington's ability to attract research funding in the near term, with the NEPTUNE award pending, and well into the future. Moreover, it represents to equip science with innovative solutions that can accelerate the pace of discovery, which will pay for itself many times over. We respectfully request your support for making a strategic investment in UW's eScience Institute as part of the 2008 supplemental budget.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeLee Shoemaker".

DeLee Shoemaker
State Government Affairs Director
Microsoft Corporation
425-707-7760
delees@microsoft.com