



January 15, 2008

Honorable Helen Sommers
Washington State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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

Dear Representative Sommers:

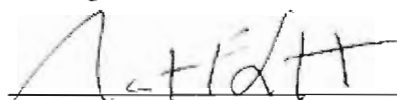
On behalf of the Technology Alliance, a statewide, not-for-profit organization of business and research leaders dedicated to advancing Washington's long-term economic success, we wish to register our strong support for the University of Washington's 2008 supplemental budget request for \$2 million for the eScience Institute Initiative.

The state funds will provide essential support for faculty, infrastructure and technical expertise that will position Washington on the leading edge of scientific data collection and analysis. This modest investment of state dollars will also help to advance UW's potential designation as the Northwest implementing organization for the National Science Foundation's NEPTUNE ocean research project, bringing with it \$130 million in new federal research dollars to our state.

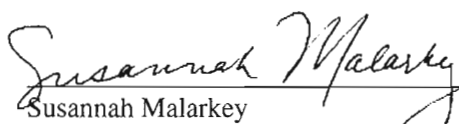
Advancements in technology and new computational techniques are revolutionizing the process of scientific discovery. The increasing volume and array of data available is transforming how research is conducted across a range of disciplines, from environmental science to medicine. The challenge lies in organizing, interpreting and extracting new knowledge from those vast quantities of data. The establishment of the eScience Institute will position Washington as a leader in this rapidly changing research environment.

The provision of \$2 million in state funds now will have a significant impact on our ability to attract federal research funding in the near term, with the NEPTUNE award pending, and well into the future. We respectfully request your support for making a strategic investment in UW's eScience Institute as part of the 2008 supplemental budget.

Best regards,



Marty Smith
Chair, Technology Alliance



Susannah Malarkey
Executive Director, Technology Alliance