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Janice R. Lachance
CEO, SLA
331 South Patrick Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3501

Dear Ms. Lachance:

I write at the request of Dr. Tom Hunter, President and Director, Sandia National Laboratories. Dr. Hunter and I have reviewed your letter of 23 October 2007 in which you express concerns for our research library. I want to begin our response by thanking you for these concerns and for your generous offer of assistance.

First, a few facts to ensure we have a baseline for discussion. We are not closing the research library no are our actions driven by budget reductions. We are transforming our research library services and, in fact, we are investing an additional $1.1M in our library services this year over the previous year. I will share more about this distinction when we can talk.

Library services are recognized as an essential element of Sandia's national security work. Our library services must ensure that our scientists and engineers have ready access to the information required to perform their work. And, these library services must also effectively manage the information products our scientists and engineers produce.

To fulfill these needs we strive to balance our services on a blend of "high tech" and "high touch." It was my judgment, as the Director, Information Solutions and Services Center, of which the library is a significant element, that we had under-invested in and under-utilized technology. This was having the effect of forcing us to offer fewer and fewer services to our users each year. I became increasingly concerned for this spiraling reality and have taken actions to correct our situation.

I would like to accept your offer to discuss our transformational journey. I am asking my assistant, Angel Jimenez to arrange a 30-minute telephone conversation for the week of 12 November. It is my intent that this conversation will help us determine how best to advance our shared purposes.

Again, Dr. Hunter and I thank you and SLA for your interest in our actions and your offer to assist.

Very cordially,

WDW/amj