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Dr. Sherry Queener
Associate Dean
Indiana University Graduate School
Director, Graduate Office IUPUI
ejmoody@iupui.edu

Dear Dr. Queener,

You have asked me to review the proposal for a PhD in Applied Earth Sciences (AES) at IUPUI. Below is my review.

I was a member of the original team of scientists that reviewed your Department of Geology in September 2002. At that time we determined that the Department, along with colleagues in other units, had the potential to develop a nationally recognized PhD program in AES. After reading this document, I am even more convinced that this is the case. I say this for three primary reasons. The Department has continued to hire young, research savvy faculty in AES and because of this, the critical mass that is needed (both intellectually and extramural support-wise) is there to build and sustain this program. Secondly, there continues to be a real need for this type of PhD training in the earth sciences with emphasis on earth-human interactions. The development of interdisciplinary programming at NSF like "Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) and more recently, the "dear colleague letter" Environment, Society and Economy, speak to this need. The ability to train rigorous, quantitative earth sciences that can speak the language of, and work closely with biological, social and medical scientists will become more and more important in the next few decades. This AES program has the potential to be a leader in doing this. Finally, the IUPUI leaders of this concept have received, not only buy in, but enthusiastic support from both the SPEA and Geological Sciences programs at IU. In fact all the letters of support are very strong and positive indeed! It is very satisfying to me to see this support for this very exciting and innovative PhD program. I urge you to push through the program at the quickest pace possible. A decade from now your University will have a nationally recognized jewel.

Yours,

W. Berry Lyons
Director, BPRC
MAPS Distinguished Professor, School of Earth Sciences