



November 30, 2010

Dr. Arlin Stoltzfus
University of Maryland

Dear Arlin:

This letter expresses my interest in collaborating with you on the proposed NESCent working group entitled HIP: Hackathons, Interop, Phylogenies. I am interested for a number of reasons: interoperability is a key to future success of EOL and other biodiversity projects and phylogenetics programs that I am involved with, phylogenies are the key to being able to synthesize evolutionary information, and hackathons are one of the best ways to actually get things done in this area. Also, I have a particular interest in tree visualization and end user tools that depend on these elements.

I am able to commit to the project in several ways. First, I am able to serve on the working group itself to help with organization and hackathon design. Second, I can commit to paying for attendance at one or more hackathons for programmers working with our group, at least two person-trips, possibly more. I am able to cosponsor a hackathon and commit up to \$10,000 for one, with a particular but not exclusive interest in hacking on visualization or interoperability with EOL. Finally, we can offer our meeting venue and facilities in Chicago free of charge if that would be useful.

I look forward to working with you and the group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Westneat'.

Mark W. Westneat
Curator of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History
Director, Biodiversity Synthesis Center of the Encyclopedia of Life