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October 31, 2007

Richard C. Blum
Chairman, UC Board of Regents

Robert C. Dynes
UC President

Gentlemen:

In February, UC Berkeley announced an unprecedented proposal to allow oil giant BP to buy a research program at the University of California Berkeley. Nine months later you are about to present the contract signed, sealed and delivered without any opportunity for public review. This is unacceptable.

The people of California are shareholders of the University of California and they, and their representatives, deserve an opportunity to comment on a momentous change in the system -- not simply be presented with a *fait d'accomplis*.

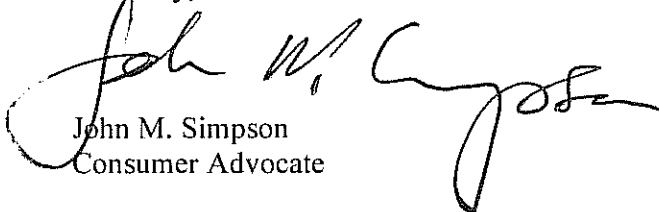
I am writing to stress that the proposed contract with BP to create the Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) at UC Berkeley must be submitted for approval by the University of California Regents.

While routine research grants have been ratified at the local campus level, this proposal is anything but ordinary. A half-billion-dollar grant will change the face of research at California's premier public institution forever. Moreover, the EBI envisions bringing 50 BP scientists onto the Berkeley campus to conduct secret, proprietary research in public facilities. Such a move is virtually unprecedented.

Clearly such a deal that could change the course of higher education in the state must be discussed and ratified by the Regents and its proposed terms released so that the public may offer comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John M. Simpson
Consumer Advocate

cc: Regents members