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To Whom It May Concern:

I been asked to evaluate proposal for the extension of the project "Investigations of the of  $2\beta$ -decay processes of <sup>82</sup>Se with the SuperNEMO detector (JINR Participation)" for the period 2022-2024. After detailed study of proposal I been impressed by the progress done by JINR group during the last year, taking into account difficulty of working under limitations caused by COVID-19 pandemia. In addition, I'm really pleased to see how prominent role of JINR group is in the SuperNEMO collaboration.

JINR group is indispensable member of SuperNEMO collaboration which is working on a forefront of extremely important direction of neutrino physics, search for the neutrino-less double beta decay. Collaboration is one of the world leaders in this research cleverly capitalizing on the prior experience with extremely successful NEMO-3 experiment. They are using unique approach: combination of detector tracking and calorimetric technologies. This concept proved to be very productive and let to study various double beta decay candidates with extremely low background environment. JINR team already deeply involve in many aspects of SuperNEMO experiment contributing in hardware, software and materials radio assay. All of those activities are highly visible and important. SuperNEMO project will not achieve its objectives without those contributions. I would like to add that JINR group consists out of very respectful scientists with a long and successful track record in neutrino physics. I wish to all members of the SuperNEMO collaboration and to JINR group particularly to successfully commission SuperNEMO Demonstrator in a timely fashion (Covid-19 restrictions permit) and looking forward to learn about their first results.

Based on outlined above I would like to express my strongest support for extension of JINR group participation in the SuperNEMO project.

I'll be glad to answer any questions. I can be contacted any time by email: <u>yfremen@utk.edu</u>

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