



Rodney Andrews, PhD PE
Director University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research
Professor, Chemical & Materials Engineering, University of Kentucky
www.caer.uky.edu
859 257 0200
Rodney.andrews@uky.edu

April 21, 2025

Dear Prof. Andrews:

Rain Carbon is pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal seeking Community Project Funding for "University of Kentucky Graphite Manufacturing and Characterization Program – Phase II". We recognize the need for and strongly support the advancement of the graphite manufacturing and characterization capability at the University of Kentucky.

The United States is currently dependent on China for approximately 90% of graphite used in electric vehicle batteries and other applications including battery electric storage systems (BESS). This poses both a national security and economic competitiveness risk for the country. In 2025, the "Domestic Production of Graphite Roundtable" participants, including Rain Carbon, identified several industry needs for expanding and accelerating domestic production: standardized testing and reference materials, greater characterization capabilities, and small-scale manufacturing and prototyping facilities. This project will benefit taxpayers by accelerating domestic production of graphite, offering both positive economic impacts and reducing national security risks.

Rain Carbon produces carbon precursor materials for battery grade graphite production and these products are sold to graphite manufacturers in North America, Europe and Asia. Rain Carbon is strongly supportive of efforts to establish US domestic production of battery graphite materials and is supplying small volumes of product to support this growth. Advancing this program, offering vital standardized testing, advanced characterization, and small-scale manufacturing processing, is needed to support the growth of domestic graphite supply. We believe this Program will be foundational to support the domestic graphite industry – particularly in support of battery grade graphite, an area of increasing importance for economic growth and national security.

Sincerely,

Les Edwards
VP Technical Services

1330 Greengate Drive
Covington, LA 70433
Email: les.edwards@raincarbon.com
Mobile: 504 82 9022
Web Site: www.raincarbon.com

Rodney Andrews, PhD PE
Director University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research
Professor, Chemical & Materials Engineering, University of Kentucky
www.caer.uky.edu
859 257 0200
Rodney.andrews@uky.edu

March 6th, 2026

Dear Prof. Andrews:

Norley Carbon & Graphite Consultants, LLC is pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal seeking Community Project Funding for "University of Kentucky Graphite Manufacturing and Characterization Program – Phase II". We recognize the need for and strongly support the advancement of the graphite manufacturing and characterization capability at the University of Kentucky.

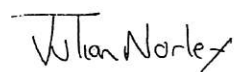
The United States is currently dependent on China for approximately 90% of graphite used in electric vehicle batteries and other applications including battery electric storage systems (BESS). This poses both a national security and economic competitiveness risk for the country. In 2025, the "Domestic Production of Graphite Roundtable" participants, including Norley Carbon & Graphite Consultants, LLC, identified several industry needs for expanding and accelerating domestic production: standardized testing and reference materials, greater characterization capabilities, and small scale manufacturing and prototyping facilities. This project will benefit taxpayers by accelerating domestic production of graphite, offering both positive economic impacts and reducing national security risks.

I have worked for companies in the graphite industry for 40 years including GrafTech International, NeoGraf Solutions, Parker Aerospace, (with manufacturing facility in Danville, Ky) and BP, and for the past 7 years as an industry consultant through my company Norley Carbon & Graphite Consultants supporting over 30 companies in the graphite field.

Advancing this program, offering vital standardized testing, advanced characterization, and small-scale manufacturing processing, is needed to support the growth of domestic graphite supply. We believe this Program will be foundational to support the domestic graphite industry – particularly in support of battery grade graphite, an area of increasing importance for economic growth and national security.

I am seriously concerned about the US's dependence on China for its graphite EV battery materials and applaud this much-needed initiative by the University of Kentucky in supporting the fledgling US domestic supply chain.

Sincerely,



Julian Norley, PhD, DIC, ARSM
Fellow of the American Carbon Society
Norley Carbon & Graphite Consultants, LLC
www.linkedin.com/in/julian-norley-ba25218
<http://www.norleycarbon.com/>
julian@norleycarbon.com



Rodney Andrews, PhD PE
Director University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research
Professor, Chemical & Materials Engineering, University of Kentucky
www.caer.uky.edu
859 257 0200
Rodney.andrews@uky.edu

March 6th 2026

Dear Prof. Andrews:

Space Tango is pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal seeking Community Project Funding for "University of Kentucky Graphite Manufacturing and Characterization Program – Phase II". We recognize the need for and strongly support the advancement of the graphite manufacturing and characterization capability at the University of Kentucky.

The United States is currently dependent on China for approximately 90% of graphite used in electric vehicle batteries and other applications including battery electric storage systems (BESS). This poses both a national security and economic competitiveness risk for the country. In 2025, the "Domestic Production of Graphite Roundtable" participants, including Space Tango, identified several industry needs for expanding and accelerating domestic production: standardized testing and reference materials, greater characterization capabilities, and small scale manufacturing and prototyping facilities. This project will benefit taxpayers by accelerating domestic production of graphite, offering both positive economic impacts and reducing national security risks.

Space Tango typically uses graphite and carbon based materials (carbon nanotubes, graphene) in our work building research payloads to run on the International Space Station.

Advancing this program, offering vital standardized testing, advanced characterization, and small-scale manufacturing processing, is needed to support the growth of domestic graphite supply. We believe this Program will



be foundational to support the domestic graphite industry – particularly in support of battery grade graphite, an area of increasing importance for economic growth and national security.

Sincerely,

Twyman Clements
President & Cofounder
Space Tango
tclemetns@spacetango.com



20527 Stephens Street
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Rodney Andrews, PhD PE
Director University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research
Professor, Chemical & Materials Engineering, University of Kentucky
www.caer.uky.edu
859 257 0200
Rodney.andrews@uky.edu

March 5, 2026

Dear Prof. Andrews:

ACP Technologies, LLC is pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal seeking Community Project Funding for "University of Kentucky Graphite Manufacturing and Characterization Program – Phase II". We recognize the need for and strongly support the advancement of the graphite manufacturing and characterization capability at the University of Kentucky.

The United States is currently dependent on China for about 90% of the graphite used in electric vehicle batteries, stationary batteries and other applications. This poses a risk to the country's national security and economic competitiveness. In 2025, the "Domestic Production of Graphite Roundtable" participants, including ACP Technologies, identified several industry needs for expanding and accelerating domestic production: standardized testing and reference materials, greater characterization capabilities, and small scale manufacturing and prototyping facilities. This project will benefit taxpayers by accelerating domestic production of graphite, offering both positive economic impacts and reducing national security risks.

ACP Technologies, LLC, together with its partner ExxonMobil, recently held a ribbon cutting of a larger pilot facility in Ashland, Kentucky, near its previous pilot facility in Hitchens, Kentucky. The new facility will produce up to 300 tons/year of mesophase pitch which can be converted into graphite for Li ion batteries. The pitch can also be used to produce high temperature C-C composites for hypersonic missiles, where it will also be converted into graphite.

Advancing this program, offering vital standardized testing, advanced characterization, and small-scale manufacturing processing, is needed to support the growth of domestic graphite supply. We believe this Program will be foundational to support the domestic graphite industry – particularly in support of battery grade graphite, an area of increasing importance for economic growth and national security.

ACP Technologies looks forward to continuing its work with the University of Kentucky in this important area of critical materials.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Holcombe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Thomas Holcombe
CEO



P.O. Box 12, Route 54
Mahanoy City, PA 17948
Office: 570-773-2113
Fax: 570-773-0569
www.blaschakanthracite.com

Rodney Andrews, PhD PE
Director University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research
Professor, Chemical & Materials Engineering, University of Kentucky
www.caer.uky.edu
859 257 0200
Rodney.andrews@uky.edu

March 9, 2026

Dear Prof. Andrews:

Blaschak Anthracite Corporation is pleased to provide this letter of support for your proposal seeking Community Project Funding for "University of Kentucky Graphite Manufacturing and Characterization Program – Phase II". We recognize the need for and strongly support the advancement of the graphite manufacturing and characterization capability at the University of Kentucky.

The United States is currently dependent on China for approximately 90% of graphite used in electric vehicle batteries and other applications including battery electric storage systems (BESS). This poses both a national security and economic competitiveness risk for the country. In 2025, the "Domestic Production of Graphite Roundtable" participants, including Blaschak Anthracite Corporation, identified several industry needs for expanding and accelerating domestic production: standardized testing and reference materials, greater characterization capabilities, and small-scale manufacturing and prototyping facilities. This project will benefit taxpayers by accelerating domestic production of graphite, offering both positive economic impacts and reducing national security risks.

Blaschak offers to support your proposal by offering anthracite materials as the sources to be graphitized, mining & processing technical expertise, and serving in an industrial advisory capacity. Our involvement will also include the sharing of the Blaschak anthracite characterization database that encompasses the full range of anthracite sources we mine, at various mine sites, and from multiple coal veins

Advancing this program, offering vital standardized testing, advanced characterization, and small-scale manufacturing processing, is needed to support the growth of domestic graphite supply. We believe this Program will be foundational to support the domestic graphite industry – particularly in support of battery grade graphite, an area of increasing importance for economic growth and national security.

It is our hope that you are successful with this proposal, which could lead to continued development of anthracite as an alternative non-energy product. This project is quite interesting to Blaschak and we look forward to participating and assisting in your research efforts.

Sincerely,

Boyd A. Kreglow
President & CEO
Blaschak Anthracite Corporation
www.blaschakanthracite.com
bkreglow@blaschakanthracite.com