



2012 April 24

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of very strong support for the nomination of Dr. Oleg Polyansky for the Benedict Prize.

As Dr. Tretyakov's nomination letter makes clear, Dr. Polyansky has been one of the world leaders in unraveling the highly excited vibration-rotation energy levels of the water molecule. Especially during the decade 1995 – 2005, Dr. Polyansky presented one amazing theoretical feat after another at international meetings, leaving many of us in the audience simply stunned by the successes of his water calculations. And this occurred at a time when the research of most other workers on these high-lying levels was characterized by very limited success or even failure. Because of this and other work of his, Dr. Polyansky is widely known and highly respected throughout the high-resolution molecular spectroscopy community.

I know Oleg Polyansky personally from joint attendance at meetings over the past 25 years, and have often discussed various issues with him, ranging from the details of some spectroscopic problem to his new managerial responsibilities in Nizhny Novgorod. Interactions with him are always a pleasure and an occasion of enlightenment for me.

It is well known that Prof. Benedict had a lifetime passionate interest in the vibration-rotation levels of water. I can thus think of no more appropriate recipient for the Benedict Prize than Oleg Polyansky. In my opinion, conferring this prize on Dr. Polyansky will not only bring credit to him for his enormous contributions to this field, but it will also enhance the stature of the Benedict Prize itself.

This letter is short, because I am in the midst of a five-week European trip, so I will just repeat that I support this candidate extremely strongly. If you want further information, please feel free to contact me as indicated below.

Jon T. Hougen
Senior NIST Scientist – Scientist Emeritus
Sensor Science Division
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8441, USA

jon.hougen@nist.gov

Tel: +1-301-975-2379

Fax: +1-301-975-2950