

Ash River Address

The following address was given by Rep. Bill Foster on May 1, 2009 at the groundbreaking of the NOvA neutrino oscillation experimental site, at a location near the Ash River in northern Minnesota approximately 807km north of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory accelerator that produces the neutrino beam measured in the detector. The experiment studies the behavior of neutrinos that disappear, re-appear, or change ("oscillate") into different neutrino types as they travel from Fermilab to the NOvA detector in Minnesota. The NOvA experiment is the second such neutrino experiment in Minnesota, following the MINOS experiment constructed in the nearby mine in Soudan, MN.

"Forty score and seven kilometers south, our accelerators brought forth on this continent a neutrino beam, conceived of protons, and dedicated to testing the proposition that all neutrinos are created equal.

We are now engaged in a great scientific quest, testing whether that neutrino, or any neutrino so conceived and so propagated, can long endure. We are met on the site of a great experiment in that quest. We have come to dedicate a portion of that site, as a final resting place for those neutrinos who here gave their lives so that our scientific progress might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, (we can not oscillate?), we can not hallow -- this site. Those brave neutrinos, living and dead, who struggled here, have mixed and oscillated far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what this experiment will measure here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which was so nobly advanced in the MINOS experiment at the Sudan mine. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead neutrinos we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these neutrinos shall not have died in vain -- and that experiments of the neutrinos, by the neutrinos, and for the neutrinos, shall not perish from the earth."

--

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