

**School of Mechanical and
Mining Engineering**

Dr S.M. Aminossadati
Senior Lecturer

12 March 2015

Ref: Reference Letter for Mr Ali Soofastaei

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is a true pleasure for me to recommend Mr Ali Soofastaei for the USA Fellowship offered by the American-Australian Association. I have known Mr Soofastaei since 1998. He worked as a mechanical engineer for eight years in oil and gas industry (2004-2012). He was also involved in teaching and learning activities as an Associate Lecturer at Naghshe-Jahan University (2009-2012). He was a top researcher in the field of energy management and published more than thirty journal and conference papers in the field of energy saving opportunities and energy efficiency.

He successfully received a living allowance scholarship from CRCMining and a tuition fee scholarship from the University of Queensland for his PhD studies on "Investigation of Energy Efficiency in Haul Truck Operations". His focus is to apply his previous knowledge and work experience in the field of energy efficiency in the mining industry. The main contribution to the field of research is to develop a model using artificial intelligence to predict energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and the associated cost in order to find saving opportunities. Mr Soofastaei has prepared and submitted eleven journal papers since he started his PhD under my supervision. His enthusiasm to learn more about mining engineering encouraged him to attend nine national and international conferences and various mine site visits. He has developed a strong collaboration with main mining companies in Australia and USA such as Downer Edi Mining, Thiess, Anglo-American, Rio Tinto, BMA, Sandvik and Caterpillar.

He is an outstanding student with a lively mind, curiosity level and academic aptitude. I admire his genuine fascination with subjects he studies, and his ability to approach each topic with vigour and initiatives. For example, during his bachelor of engineering degree, he presented an innovative method to find energy saving opportunities in residential buildings, during his master, he applied Value Engineering to complete an innovative energy management algorithm and he developed associated software. In addition, he has developed a new software in his PhD to estimate the effect of truck congestion (or bunching) on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in surface mines.

Mr Soofastaei demonstrated his leadership skills and his remarkable ability to manage challenging situations during his engineering and academic careers. His leadership skills can be demonstrated by his successful involvement in leading a wide group of engineering designers in a prestigious oil and gas holding company (2004-2012). Another recent example is his effective coordination of international researchers to complete a comprehensive investigation on using artificial intelligence methods to find energy efficiency opportunities and reduce environmental pollution in mining industry (2012-2014).

I believe that this fellowship would be an opportunity for him to develop his knowledge and research skills that will benefit education, research and industry. Therefore, without hesitation, I strongly recommend Mr Ali Soofastaei to be awarded the USA Fellowship.

Yours Faithfully



Dr Saiied Aminossadati

Dr Saiied Aminossadati

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**School of Mechanical and
Mining Engineering**

Prof Peter Knights
BMA Chair and Head of Division of Mining

American Australian Association

12 March 2015

Ref: Letter of Reference in support of USA Fellowship Application by Mr Ali Soofastaei

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have had pleasure to know and work with Mr Ali Soofastaei since he commenced the PhD program at The University of Queensland.

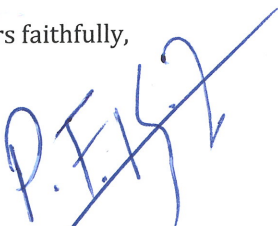
Mr Soofastaei holds a Graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering. He has 8 years industrial experience in the field of energy management working with oil and gas companies. His academic and industry background led him to enrol in a PhD program at The University of Queensland related to an investigation of energy efficiency opportunities and greenhouse gas emission reduction in mining industry. More recently I have worked with Mr Soofastaei to develop software to quantify around truck congestion (or bunching) on open pit haulage ramps.

Mr Soofastaei's industrial background enables him to adopt a disciplined approach to projects. He is well organised and hardworking, and has demonstrated considerable initiative within his PhD area. He possesses excellent communication skills, and is polite and considerate when it comes to accepting the guidance of his PhD supervisors.

Since arriving at The University of Queensland, Mr Soofastaei has drafted eleven journal papers, nine of which are currently under review. Furthermore, he has presented ten papers in national and international conferences in his PhD period.

His outstanding strengths are his depth and breadth of knowledge of the energy management, punctuality preparedness, and confidence. I have no doubt that he will be a successful project leader and will work to enhance collaborative projects between The University of Queensland and American research centres should he be awarded a Fellowship. I strongly recommend Mr Soofastaei as a candidate for a USA fellowship.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Peter Knights
BMA Chair and Head of the Division of Mining
School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering

Prof Peter Knights

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March 18, 2015

RE: Reference for Mr. Ali Soofastaei

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my great please to write this reference letter for Mr. Ali Soofastaei. I have known Ali for about 2 years since he started his PhD at the University of Queensland in March 2012. Mr. Soofastaei has been involved in a number of projects funded through CRCMining and CRCMining is currently providing support for his PhD. I believe Ali Soofastaei has all the qualities that make him an exceptional candidate for an AUS to USA Fellowship.

Let me introduce myself. I am currently the CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Mining (CRCMining) and also Professor of Mining Engineering in the Mining Division of the School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering at the University of Queensland (UQ). I have been at the University of Queensland since July 2000 primarily as a Professorial Research Fellow. Prior to joining the University of Queensland I spent 10 years as a faculty member in Department of Mining and Geological Engineering Department at the University of Arizona. I served as department head for my last three years at the University of Arizona.

Mr Soofastaei background in energy management while working with a number of companies in the resources field fits very well the CRCMining's mining company members interests in this area. The reduction of energy usage in mining operations is critical for the future viability of the industry. Our ability to work on these topics with research groups around the world is also essential if we are to achieve these goals. Therefore, I firmly support Mr Soofastaei proposed collaboration with American Universities and believe this will be a valuable experience for all the stakeholders involved.

In closing, Ali Soofastaei is a highly intelligent, creative and dedicated person who is a pleasure to interact with. I am very optimistic about his ability to undertake and successfully engage with American researchers and believe his work will be of high significance to the field. I believe Mr. Ali Soofastaei is a high calibre candidate for the USA fellowship and he has my support without reservation.

Yours Sincerely



Professor Paul Lever
CEO CRCMining

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19 March 2015

Re: Letter of reference in support of Australia to US Fellowship by Mr Ali Soofastaei

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very pleased to be providing this reference letter for Mr Ali Soofastaei in my capacity as his PhD associate advisor.

Mr Soofastaei is an impressive mature researcher. He has a strong record of accomplishment and extensive research experience in haul truck energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in surface mines. He specialises on using Artificial Intelligence methods to simulate and optimise key parameters that affect haul truck fuel consumption. This is a very unique and innovative approach to save money and energy for the mining industry, which has a strong commercial potential.

Mr Soofastaei is also an independent and highly motivated researcher. He has been working very hard to achieve his research goals. This is clearly evidenced by top quality papers he has published in prestigious international conferences and journals. Last year, not only had he confirmed his PhD project with an outstanding evaluation, but also wrote five papers and submitted three of them for publications in reputable journals. He is well respected and admired by his supervisors and fellow academics for the quality and quantity of his publications.

Mr Soofastaei has a very nice personality. He is very polite and respectful. His positive working attitude and easy-going personality played a role in establishing and maintaining collaboration between university and industry. I have found Mr Soofastaei to be professional, hardworking, and enthusiastic for adopting new technologies and ideas for his research work. Furthermore, he is very passionate about his research study.

I am quite confident that Ali will make a great contribution to the science of energy management in Australian mining industry. The USA Fellowship will boost his confidence and determination to do better therefore I strongly support his application.

Yours faithfully



Associate Professor Mehmet Kizil
Director, Teaching and Learning
Mining Program Leader