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Re: Kendra Klein

Dear Fellowship Committee:

It is my pleasure to offer the strongest recommendation to **Ms. Kendra Klein** for the 2010 Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Competitive Grants Program. Kendra began in my program in U.C. Berkeley's Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management in Fall 2006. Since then, I have worked closely with her as her primary academic advisor. She has distinguished herself as a talented and motivated young scholar with a commitment to fostering alternative agriculture. Idealistic about the potential for a regional farm supply in California and elsewhere, she is also doing cutting-edge research on the process of institutionalizing markets. I suspect she is an ideal candidate for your priority area on "Food and Society."

Kendra's dissertation project focuses on "farm-to-hospital" initiatives as an important experimental site where the messy and difficult work of institutionalizing regional food procurement is playing out on the ground. The oligopoly of Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs) are huge actors in our calcified food infrastructure, and Kendra has identified them as key impediments to the farm-to-hospital movement. With this grant, she will focus close attention on the distribution chains and business models of the GPOs as they service health care institutions.

This work promises to shed new light on the challenges of bringing regional farming markets into the mainstream. Her work on these initiatives will also illuminate how economic systems respond to new kinds of political and ethical formations occurring at the intersection of human health, food and the environment.

Kendra's academic performance in graduate school has been excellent. She passed her qualifying examination in 2009 with aplomb. She has terrific research skills: in the last year, she provided me invaluable assistance as a researcher in my new work on organic regulation across the US and Europe. She is also a great writer, and we are publishing two papers based on this work. For one of these papers, which will appear in *Environmental Politics* (one of the top environmental studies journals), Kendra is first author.

Kendra will bring her analysis and findings down to the grass roots level, a critical strength and merit of her project. Using medical institutions as critical sites of practice will ground her work in real places facing real challenges, and allow her to develop depth, while also speaking to the

larger theoretical framings (and shortcomings thereof) of sustainable food. She is working across scales of governance, and across traditional policy domains and actors. She is interested in policy feedbacks and social learning.

Kendra is a formidable and creative intellect, and she will be a highly successful scholar. She will make excellent use of this grant, and I can't recommend her highly enough for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Winickoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

David E. Winickoff