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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse Jim Laurie's work in as a lecturer on environmental issues, especially sustainable environmental practices in agriculture.

Jim was guest speaker in my environmental science class in the spring, 2008 and again in the spring of 2009. His presentations on both occasions were excellent. He is very skilled at describing viable solutions to difficult environmental problems in a way that engages students in discussion and gives them an optimistic but realistic belief that it is possible to find solutions to environmental problems. Too often students become discouraged when looking at environmental problems; they need to be more empowered. Jim's lectures gave them this possibility.

Jim is very generous with his time. On another occasion, I contacted him with questions about a lecture that I was developing to present to a university audience in South Africa. He spent some time both sending me detailed responses to my questions, but also suggesting other resources and individuals whom I might contact. I am very grateful for his help.

In sum, I highly recommend Jim as a lecturer. He is clear, enthusiastic, engaging, and for audiences interested in the environment and environmental solutions, empowering.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Richmond, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair,
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