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Esteemed Admissions Committee:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Anneke Wilder's application to pursue her Master of Environmental Science degree at Evergreen State College.

I have known Anneke for more than ten years. We have a strong rapport, keep in touch through social media, and get together whenever she is in town. I am excited to have the opportunity to rave about her talents.

Anneke was my student at the College of Charleston, where I am a Senior Instructor in the department of Biology. I still remember when I met Anneke on the first day of her undergraduate college career, and she mentioned her passion for combining nature with art. We shared Honors Biology One and Two in her freshman year, Anneke was my advisee, and we spent a semester abroad together in Trujillo, Spain through an interdisciplinary study abroad program linking biology, political science, and Spanish. Small class sizes and studying abroad together have allowed me to get to know Anneke very well. I've been able to see first-hand Anneke the artist meld seamlessly with Anneke the biologist. She excels at the intersection of biology, art, education, and design.

Anneke conducted independent undergraduate research on amphibian ecology and behavior in a colleague's laboratory where she thrived both independently as well as part of a dynamic laboratory team, ultimately gaining first authorship on a primary research article in the journal *Copeia*.

Anneke has always been enthusiastic in her pursuit of global scholarship. She studied ecology abroad in Panama and she absolutely thrived in the cultural and language study abroad immersion program we shared in Trujillo, Spain where she lived with a host family and developed deep, lasting ties to the community. Her written and oral work has always been outstanding. Her photography and field note sketches were among the best I have ever seen. Anneke moved back to Spain after graduating. She taught English



in the Gallaecian region for two and a half years. While pursuing her interest in teaching, becoming fluently bilingual, and thriving as a member of a vibrant international community of teacher-scholars, Anneke also utilized the opportunity to continue to pursue her passion for photography and art.

Anneke studied Natural Science Illustration at the University of Washington and has continued to combine her artistic and biological talents. An outstanding naturalist and lifelong learner, Anneke is competent, confident, hard-working, and has outstanding interpersonal communication skills. While working as a project lead with graphic design firms she simultaneously explores mycology and is currently an artist in residence utilizing traditional ecological knowledge in mycology to inform the natural dyes she is utilizing in her art.

Anneke's maturity, her academic background in biology, studio art, design, Spanish, and education, combined with her intellectual curiosity, intelligence, talent, drive, and maturity make her a great match for your program. I give Anneke my most enthusiastic support and encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have at [bidwelld@cofc.edu](mailto:bidwelld@cofc.edu) or on my personal cell at 843-530-1732.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Bidwell  
Senior Instructor of Biology  
Certified Biomimicry Professional (BPro).