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To whom it may concern:

I am a multimedia storyteller with a MFA in Electronic Arts from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY. I am the creator of storycooking.com. I met Katrin Haldeman while we were both doing work with Chefs Consortium, advocating for local food, local farms and organizations that promote food literacy. After that, I went to work for Katrin Haldeman as Media Chef at her cafe, Dali Mamma in Albany, NY.

I am writing on behalf of Katrin Haldeman regarding the position with NYS Agriculture and Markets. I got to know Katrin while working with her daily. I can vouch for her commitment to farms and local business. Katrin tirelessly opened her Cafe to create opportunities to connect farms, local business and community. She served and showcased local food on her everyday menu. Some other projects included recipe development with local Community Supported Agriculture farms, catering special projects that focus on using New York state grains, hosting and teaching culinary to Middle and High School students.

It was not until we worked together the event "Brava!" a fundraiser that provided new bras to women at the YWCA-GCR, in partnership with The Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy, NY, that I understood the depth of Katrin's abilities. She pulled all the parties involved, and creatively designed with them the social media part of the campaign. She offered to cater the reception, had her cafe as a drop off site, and made her staff available to cook with the women of the YWCA, recipes they picked, for the reception, honoring the voices of all involved.

Katrin is a strong voice for local food and farms. Her upbringing, energy and passion goes into creating a community from the ground up. Without reservation, I recommend her highly for this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,
Ellie Markovitch