

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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November 15, 2004

Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee  
c/o Professor Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck  
Department of Physics  
Indiana University  
Swain Hall West 117  
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing in support of **Chris Klausmeier** who has applied for a position in your department. Chris was a Ph.D. student whom I co-advised with Dr. Claudia Neuhauser.

Chris is the most mathematically gifted student I have seen in our Ph.D. program in the past 24 years. His mathematical skills have allowed him to address a series of questions concerning the role of spatial processes in determining community patterning, composition and diversity. He has a strong publication record, including a paper on the generation of spatial pattern that was published in *Science* while he was a graduate student and another paper that recently appeared in *Nature*.

Chris has a highly gifted intellect, is deeply engaged in the ecological literature and highly motivated. I anticipate that his unique skills will allow him to make many significant contributions to ecological theory. He has great potential to make many significant advances during his career.

Chris treats others with respect and shows genuine interest in them and their ideas. He is reserved but direct, honest and fully committed to his ideas and to acting on them.

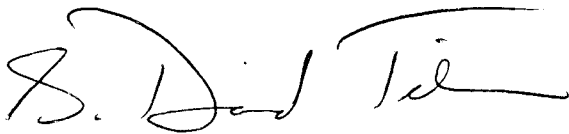
While at Minnesota, Chris proved himself to be a skilled and dedicated teacher. He taught with me and did a superior job of presenting complex material, leading classroom discussion, and guiding students as they formulated and pursued independent research projects. He would be a delightful colleague.

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Chris finished his Ph.D. spring 2000 and was then a post-doctoral researcher with Simon Levin at Princeton. I've heard many enthusiastic reports from colleagues at Princeton about Chris. He and his wife, Dr. Elena Litchman, are now at Georgia Tech, but they would prefer a different location.

Chris Klausmeier is well suited for your position. I give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. David Tilman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

G. David Tilman  
Regents Professor and  
McKnight Presidential Chair in Ecology