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To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the application of Dr. Songyan Zheng for an assistant professor position. I strongly recommend her for this position.

I am a full professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, and the Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. I have published more than 200 scientific papers and several books, and have been an editor of several journals (Japan Regional Editor of "X-Ray Spectrometry" published from Wiley, Editorial board member of "Spectrochimica Acta Part B" published from Elsevier, guest editor of "Journal of Trace and Microprobe Techniques" published from Dekker, and a guest editor of "Advances in Quantum Chemistry" published from Academic Press). I have been working in Kyoto University for 11 years, but before that, I was working in RIKEN Institute, where I worked on X-ray analysis with Dr. Zheng who was studying at that time in the University of Tokyo.

Dr. Zheng was involved in a number of research projects which I administrated during her graduate training in the University of Tokyo, including fundamental chemical physics, analytical science, surface analysis and X-ray spectroscopy. She carried out most her experimental studies at the Photon Factory, National Laboratory for High Energy Physics (KEK), Japan. The nature of performing experiments at national laboratory requires significant collaboration in many different ways. Dr. Zheng widely collaborated with other scientists who worked at KEK in many different scientific fields. Dr. Zheng was always willing to adapt new knowledge and techniques from them and showed great creativity in her own researches. Dr. Zheng has been very talent and self-motivated scientist with great management skill and leadership in terms of planning, setting up and conducting the experiments. She also showed great ability in developing methodologies of analyzing experimental data.

Dr. Zheng demonstrated extraordinary capabilities and achievements in the researches what she was engaged. For example, Dr. Zheng played an essential research role in developing combination of fluorescent X-rays and X-ray induced electric current which has been included in "Encyclopedia of Analytical Chemistry" (John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester, UK 2000). The purpose of the

research was to develop method and instrumentation to detect chemical states of compounds located in different depth of materials.

After Dr. Zheng's graduate training in the University of Tokyo, she went to US to further develop her scientific career in the area of biophysical chemistry and biochemistry. Dr. Zheng has made crucial contributions on determination of membrane protein structures in the biological system such as monolayers at air/water interfaces and bilayers on organic chain molecules. Dr. Zheng has showed great passion on the scientific issues whatever she has worked on. I was also impressed by her broad base knowledge and skills in scientific studies whatever she has involved. I am confident that Dr. Zheng will create great research programs in the future based on her achievements, research experiences and creativity.

As a result of Dr. Zheng's outstanding research ability and achievements, leadership, contributions and impact of her work on the fields what she has worked, I strongly support her application for an assistant professor. Please contact me at anytime if I can be of future assistance in this matter. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jun Kawai in black ink, consisting of stylized Japanese characters.

Jun Kawai
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Japan