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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

5/20/94

It is with great pleasure with which I provide a recommendation for Yiorgos Mantanis who recently completed his Ph.D. degree under my supervision in the Department of Forestry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. For his Ph.D. research project Yiorgos investigated the swelling of lignocellulosic materials in water and organic liquids. He carried out excellent work on this project. During the course of the study he developed both new approaches and equipment modifications to further both the depth and breadth of the investigation. The use of a linear variable displacement transformer interfaced with an advanced computer system, allowed for the first time, kinetic analysis of the swelling behavior of wood and compressed fiber systems. Predictive relationships are now available for swelling behavior of lignocellulosic materials as a result of Yiorgos' study. The work resulted in four publications in peer reviewed international journals, which attests to the quality of the investigation.

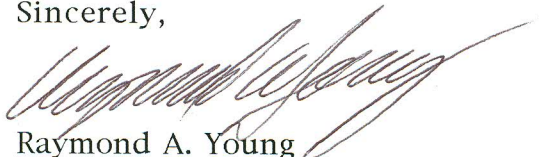
During his Ph.D. studies Yiorgos developed a number of additional skills which will greatly aid him in his future position. He has developed great facility with computer technology and statistics. He has state-of-the-art knowledge of these valuable research tools. Yiorgos has also developed a superb ability in written English communication. His publications and thesis were entirely his creation and required very little editing on my part. This is truly a great asset for scientists in the modern world since English has become the language of science communication.

It has been a joy to work with Yiorgos. He has an excellent inquiring mind which embodies the nature of true scientists. When he encounters new research problems, he first thoroughly absorbs the information in the literature, then formulates new concepts and finally new approaches. I am certain he will excel in a similar manner in his future position.

I and his fellow students have also enjoyed Yiorgos' delightful personality and vitality. He has served as an inspiration to the other students in the laboratory. I certainly enjoyed our many discussions about the history and politics of Greece.

It should be clear by now that I recommend Dr. Yiorgos Mantanis without reservation for your new position. He is indeed a superb scientist and individual. Your institution will be well served with him on your staff.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Young
Professor of Wood Chemistry