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To whom it may concern:

This letter is my testimony to the extraordinary wisdom and compassion of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I delight in affirming that in my opinion he is the rarest of men - an authentic, enlightened spiritual master, a guide and example who can be of tremendous help to the United States in these troubled, irreligious and violent times.

I am thirty-four years old, a graduate of Lawrence University with degrees in philosophy and psychology. I have worked as a business man, an educator and a counselor. I am vice-chairman of the L.L. Stott Foundation, a large charitable trust, established by my father. And for many years, I have been a religious seeker, looking both for answers for myself and for the people who come to me suffering and in need of help. I have met many self-professed teachers and gurus all over the world and studied their teachings. I found little that was relevant to concerns of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Americans, little understanding of contemporary psychological theory, little insight into the problems that we are all facing today economically, psychologically, and spiritually, in this 'age of alienation'.

Finally in 1975, I was introduced to the teachings of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and my life was irrevocably changed. I found a man of such penetrating insight into the human condition, and so inspiring and loving in his teachings on the meaning of real religion - the religious experience - that I decided to become his disciple and live in his community.

Now, eight years later, I am still a disciple and still-learning - more and more. Sitting with Bhagwan in silence now, many of the things he said take on a new depth and significance. In some mysterious, but very profound way, his silence actually "speaks" to me - of peace, of meditation, of the real "communion" that Jesus once talked of. Bhagwan's teaching has always been inseparable from his living example and now that he is silent, it is all the more obvious.

In my work in counselling people Bhagwan's teachings have also been invaluable. The main issue today, and perhaps always, is one of meaninglessness, alienation and despair - the psychological by-products of materialism. No one has ever spoken to this issue more cogently, nor offered a more healing and realistic alternative than Bhagwan Shree Rajreesh. He calls it "the psychology of the Buddhas." In my professional opinion, his contribution to the field of psychology alone will be remembered for many generations to come.

To have Bhagwan Shree Rajreesh with us in this country is a rare gift and a great opportunity. He is recognized already all over the world as one of the great spiritual teachers of this century. I believe his renown in the field of psychology is equally significant and will be more and more acknowledged by reputable authorities in the field. For these reasons I believe Bhagwan should be encouraged to remain in this country, not harassed. He is a treasure. Don't miss this opportunity!

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin W Stott  
Sw Deva Sambuddha.