Dear Living/Learning Unit Selection Committee:

As a professor in Kalamazoo College's biology department, I support the ideologies and programs of the Wilderness Philosophy House. I believe they will be a valuable contribution to our campus community and put into practice the environmentally responsible philosophy of the biology curriculum and the Environmental Studies Program. As Co-Director of that Program, I am also willing to serve as an advisor to this group in their endeavors on our main campus, the Arboretum, and off-campus.

Sincerely,

E. Binney Girdler, PhD
Roger F. and Harriet G. Varney Associate Professor of Biology
Kalamazoo College
Attn: Selection Committee

We would like to voice our support for those students seeking to live in a business house for the next academic year.

As we review their business plan and compare it to the goals of the Plan for the Future of Kalamazoo College we are excited about how the students living in the business house can help the College achieve several of its goals.

The Guilds will be a major part of the success that the College achieves in the next few years. The Guilds are an attempt to better engage alumni, to bring alumni and students together around disciplines or points of interest, and to help alumni network with one another. The intent of the business house to network with alumni, hold an alumni dinner, profile local businesses, provide field trips to local business owned by alumni, do job shadowing and hold intern/externship forums will directly benefit the goals of the Guilds. In addition the establishment of the business house will provide the Business Guild with a ready list of interested students who could be invited to attend both local and out of town business roundtables.

Alumni Relations is charged with continually enhancing the experiences of our alumni. We know from our contact with alumni from coast-to-coast that they are eager to connect with current students. The business house’s intention to have alumni for dinner, to participate in externship forums and to engage with alumni in other meaningful ways will enhance the alumni experience and provide for a steady stream of engagement.

Development knows that engaged alumni are better donors than non-engaged alumni. A study by the Columbus Foundation discovered that 1) engaged donors are more likely to establish several funds than other donors; 2) engaged donors are more likely than other donors to create unrestricted gifts; 3) engaged donors are more likely than others to leave planned gifts to the institution. Because several of the activities envisioned by the business house are designed to engage alumni we can only believe that this activity will assist development in the acquisition of funds needed to support the institution. We believe that once the students see the process in action they will be better donors themselves when the opportunity presents itself.

Thank you for considering our support of the student request for a business house.