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**Thomas F. Degnan, Jr.**  
Manager, Downstream Breakthrough  
Technology

**ExxonMobil**  
*Research and  
Engineering*

September 4, 2009

W. Ken Burchett  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Catalysis Research Laboratory  
PO Box 1972  
Kingstport, TN 37662

RE: Nomination of Mr. Joseph Baumgartner for the 2010 ACS National Chemical Technician Award

Dear Mr. Burchett

ExxonMobil Research and Engineering enthusiastically endorses the nomination of Mr. Joseph E. Baumgartner for the 2009 American Institute of Chemical Engineers Research Technician of the Year Award. Mr. Baumgartner has been a consistent contributor to the technical excellence and technological impact of our research organization for more than 20 years. His collaborations and teamwork have contributed to the success of both science and technology-based projects, both within Corporate Strategic Research, which is where he works, and with affiliate ExxonMobil laboratories. In addition, he has helped create a collegial and collaborative environment within a diverse corporate research community.

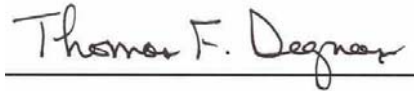
Mr. Baumgartner has also provided some of the clearest evidence for the critical role of fundamental science in technological advances, by contributing scientific concepts and information that have proven useful well beyond an immediate technical question.

Perhaps most importantly to a bottom line focused company, Joseph has made significant contributions in the area of catalyst discovery and development. His work has resulted in nine issued U.S. patents and numerous journal publications in areas critical to energy development.

On behalf of ExxonMobil Research and Engineering, I strongly support this nomination as an opportunity to recognize someone who has consistently been a significant contributor to our research endeavors and continues to serve as a role model and mentor for our younger technician staff members.

Please contact me at (908) 730-2886 if I can expand upon any of the comments I've provided in support of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Degnan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Thomas F. Degnan, Jr.  
Manager, Downstream Breakthrough Technology  
ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Co.  
Clinton, NJ 08801