November 2, 2012

Michael D. Smith

Dean of the Faculty

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

University Hall

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mike,

It is my great pleasure to support the nomination of Prof. Robert Mathieu to a tenured appointment at Harvard.

Professor Robert Mathieu is the leading candidate for the inaugural Richard L. Menschel Faculty Directorship of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University. He is a respected authority and an accomplished researcher on star clusters, binary stars, and stellar evolution. His scientific expertise fills an important niche in the Astronomy department, and will enrich the research and education experience of its students and postdoctoral fellows.

Professor Mathieu's exceptional skills and experience in education are expected to contribute greatly to the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Astronomy department.

With best wishes,

Avi_signature.jpg

Abraham (Avi) Loeb

Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of Science

Chair, Astronomy Department

Director, Institute for Theory and Computation (ITC)

Harvard University