



January 2023

Dear Honorable Judge,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Suzanne Stokoe, 6<sup>th</sup> Generation Farmer and owner of Stokoe Farms. We are a 201-year-old family farm. I am writing you this letter on behalf of Katie Morrison, who is currently before the court regarding the incident on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

My family and I have known Katie for decades. My first memories of Katie where when she and my niece were building sleepover forts in my parents' family room, giggling and playing with the family pets. She was a staple around our family and the farm, and I had the opportunity to spend time with her throughout her pre-teen and teenage years. To say that her family life was difficult would be an understatement. However, Katie persevered, worked very hard, and didn't let her family life affect her in a negative way. In fact, I truly believe that her struggles in her teen years have made her a more compassionate and caring person.

A specific example of her compassion happened just this past year. Katie has worked for the seasonal portion of our agritainment farm for many years. I know I can always call upon her when we need help. This past year, a teen boy named Connor was hired to work our fall Harvest Fest and Christmas Tree Season. Unbeknownst to us, Connor comes from a very broken home, and was living with a friend. At 15, this young man lacked clothing, communication devices, personal care products, and even proper shoes. Katie went out of her way to give Connor rides to work so that he could continue earning a paycheck, helped to organize the purchase of work boots, warmer clothing and gloves, collected funds for personal care products, and even raised money so Connor will have a phone with internet connection for the next year. She is mentoring and engaging with this young man in a way that only she can.

Katie is a wonderful mother and partner, and she simply takes care of all the people around her. When one of our managers was not feeling well, Katie got up early and made her old-fashioned elderberry syrup. During a particularly labor-intensive time this past fall, she brought in a huge crockpot lunch for the staff. She is a prompt, hardworking and dependable employee. Katie is an integral part of Stokoe Farms, and I truly believe that. As all businesses are dealing with changes, Stokoe Farms too is making changes. Katie and her unique set of skills is part of those changes as the farm moves forward.

I know that Katie is a peaceful and caring person, and I only hope that his letter can convey how important she is to me and her family. She is raising two wonderful children who need their mother with them. I believe sending her to serve time would be a true hardship on her family. I beg the court of leniency in sentencing. I don't pretend to know what happened on January 6<sup>th</sup>, but I do know that Katie did nothing violent or threatening. As the world was in a truly crazy time, I hope the court can offer a little grace, as Katie offers grace to everyone around her on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Stokoe  
6<sup>th</sup> Generation Farmer  
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