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Zeno Anime USA
San Francisco Zeno Promotion
2913 Putnam Boulevard
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Committee Members:

This letter conveys my strongest support for the completion of an English version of Chiba Shigeki's animated film about the life and works of Brother Zeno in Japan. I am happy to learn that the Japanese version is nearing completion, and that the English translation and dubbing of *Brother Zeno – Boundless Love* only awaits full funding to proceed into production. The film does deserve broad support and a wide viewing.

I would like to use this film in two geography courses I teach to scores of students each year: *Geography of Japan* and *World Regional Geography*. It is very difficult to find films about Japan dealing with themes of volunteerism, social welfare, human rights, and humanitarianism. Films showing the struggles and victories of the human spirit in Japan, such as *Barefoot Gen*, are very much appreciated by students and go far toward an understanding of universally shared values. The story of Brother Zeno would be just such a film, surely a valuable teaching tool.

In the 1990s, citizens of all countries are reviewing the meaning of the twentieth century and its lessons. The life of Brother Zeno Zebroski teaches us that that even in the face of disaster, humanism can rise above materialism and nationalism. Such lessons are still relevant and necessary. I look forward to being able to teach and discuss these lessons through the film *Brother Zeno – Boundless Love*.

Yours sincerely,

Mary G. McDonald, Ph.D.
Associate Professor