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To whom it may concern:

James S. Leanos served as CIENA Corporation's real estate broker-representative from the earliest formation of the firm as Hydralite Corporation, in 1994 through the time of its initial public offering and rapid growth in the late 1990's until the year 2002 when he decided to pursue other interests.

In CIENA's early years, prior to the firm's achieving the credit worthiness that was eventually achieved, Mr. Leanos was able to find a high quality developer who would build needed facilities, including electronic laboratories, within a 4-month time frame. This tight time-frame became the hallmark of CIENA's needs, and Mr. Leanos' performance through much of our growth phase within Maryland, and elsewhere in the USA, Europe and Asia.

Ultimately, Mr. Leanos handled approximately one million square feet of leasing for CIENA, he built a team, The Tech Properties Group, which handled our tenant representation, lease administration and advisory needs, and ultimately our disposition needs when it became necessary for us to sublease surplus space.

In the years since he moved on to other pursuits, I have from time to time asked for Mr. Leanos's advice in real estate matters facing CIENA, and he has been happy to assist, without compensation.

I highly recommend Mr. Leanos as a trusted, persistent, flexible and wise counsel who is able to perform when called upon, and whom I have depended upon to anticipate the future needs of our firm and to follow-up with strategies to execute and monitor our real estate programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Lapides".

Michael R. Lapides, CFM
Senior Director
Facilities Management