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April 9, 2010

Applicant Review Panel
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Connie Galambos Malloy, Application ID #17483, to California's Citizens Redistricting Commission for 2011. As a current Commissioner for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Executive Director of Urban Habitat, and an individual who has served on dozens of nonprofit boards, I can anticipate firsthand the hard work and the skill sets that will be needed to ensure that the redistricting process effectively serves the public interest, and I can guarantee that Connie will be a tremendous leader and asset on the team.

I have known Connie as my employee at Urban Habitat (UH) for four years, and before that as a strong coalition partner. During her first three years with Urban Habitat, Connie served as Coordinator of the Bay Area Social Equity Caucus, a diverse coalition of community, business, government, labor, and health organizations that are working together to improve the lives of all Bay Area residents. Due to Connie's outstanding leadership, she was promoted to Director of Programs at Urban Habitat, where she oversees UH's work on transportation, housing, land-use, and climate in the region and the state of California.

Connie boasts an impressive array of analytical skills, including data and demographic analysis and a growing understanding of organizational and project-specific finance and budgeting. Due to her experiences living and working in many of the state's regions, she brings a unique and fist-hand appreciation for California's diversity that will serve her well in taking on a role with the Redistricting Commission. Connie also demonstrates daily her ability to be impartial and data driven when making decisions on behalf of our organization – always requesting the most relevant and up to date information available to inform our collective next steps.

Many of Connie's analytical skills were developed during her time earning a graduate degree in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Beyond her baseline math and data manipulation abilities, Connie understands complex land use and environmental policy, planning, and law – skills sets which will enable her to help other commissioners wade through the relevant information as they set out to redraw our state districts. Her comfort with computers is impressive and in the time I have known her she has taught herself the use of new programs and platforms as they have pertained to her needs or those of our organization. Her personality is curious and inquisitive, thus she does not shy away from researching and interpreting data, documents, and maps. Furthermore, she is able to strategically communicate what she knows and learns with great ease to her peers, as well

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as specialists in the field, and the general public. As a result, she often represents Urban Habitat locally, statewide, and nationally.

Connie's many years in California have allowed her to live, work and travel across the majority of the state, and to cultivate an understanding of California's unique geographic and demographic attributes. Her command of the Spanish language and background as an Afro Latino immigrant also support her understanding of the state's vast Latino population. She's also been involved in regional needs assessments, identifying data-driven challenges and opportunities as they relate to specific racial, ethnic, and gendered populations.

She is committed to a number of causes in her professional and personal life, and she consistently grounds her work in a strong sense of the public good and desire for equity across all demographic groups. As a board member of the American Planning Association's Northern California Chapter, Connie has worked for years as Diversity Director to ensure that the professionals leading our neighborhood planning and policy divisions are in fact representative of the communities that they serve. She has also continued to pursue professional development opportunities with Urban Habitat's full support while working as full time staff. Examples include the Women's Foundation Women's Policy Institute in 2008-09, the University of Southern California Ross Real Estate Program and Alameda County Central Labor Council Boards & Commissions Training in 2007, and the National Development Council Real Estate Finance Intensive in 2006.

Perhaps most importantly, Connie's open mind and keen sense of the public interest enable her to facilitate community processes and deliberate on divisive issues in a way that benefits all her constituents, not just those with whom she might consider herself politically aligned. Even when she has a hunch as to a problem's solution, she insists that relevant data be the driving factor to justify any actions on her part or on the part of the entities with whom she works or volunteers. This pragmatic and ethical approach allows Urban Habitat to partner across issues and sectors to lift up the quality of life and civic engagement in low income communities and communities of color.

To close, I highly recommend Connie Galambos Malloy to be a Commissioner on the 2011 Citizens Redistricting Commission. Beyond her technical qualifications that I've outlined above, Connie brings an energetic spirit and commitment to her work that will go far in making the work of the commission effective and engaging to California's residents and decisionmakers.

Please feel free to contact me for more information or if any questions arise in reviewing this letter. My cell number is Redacted.

Regards,



Juliet Ellis
Executive Director