

BEST BEST & KRIEGER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Edward W. Lee

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April 19, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

California State Auditor
Citizens Redistricting Commission
555 Capitol Mall
Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Application #16250, Peter Yao
Letter of Recommendation

Dear State Auditor:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation on Peter Yao. I have known Peter well over 13 years, both personally and professionally and, without reservation, can well speak to his abilities and demeanor.

As a municipal attorney for over 20 years, I am well acquainted with the issues and consequences of redistricting. I am currently the Managing Partner of the Los Angeles Office of Best, Best and Krieger. I currently represent four cities as city attorney and have represented other communities throughout Southern California over my years experience as a city attorney. I have been and am intimately involved in the local election process and understand the effects that political boundaries can and will have on communities. Best, Best & Krieger is a law firm which has been in existence for over 100 years. The Firm represents over 30 cities and many more school districts and special districts throughout California. The Firm is proud of its ranking as 17th in attorney diversity amongst the nation's largest law firms, published in The American Lawyer.

As already noted, I have known Peter Yao over the past 13 years both personally and professionally. On the personal level, our children attended the same high school, the Webb Schools in Claremont. During this time, I have known Peter to be a very concerned and involved father. I have always seen Peter as a man of integrity, who speaks his mind, but just as importantly who listens and weighs all the facts. As a professional engineer with Raytheon, Peter retired as Director of Engineering, with a focus on research and development for the company. He gathered the experience during his professional career in systems, budgeting, and staff development which transmits well to his current role as community leader and council member.

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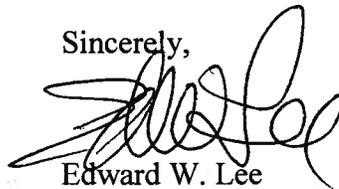
On a professional level, I have known Peter as a Council Member of the City of Claremont and as a Board Member and now President of the Independent Cities Association, a professional association of over 40 cities in Southern California. Peter's background and experience with Raytheon clearly prepared Peter to be the leader he has evidently become as a local elected official. As a Council Member, Peter proved his skills in leading his city to ensure that it addressed the needs for affordable housing in the community. His leadership resulted in the adoption of regulations to provide housing in the community to meet the needs of both seniors and very low income residents. His experience in operating a large department of a major aerospace company also prepared Peter to understand and balance a city budget with a shortfall over \$4.0 million to ensure continuing health and human services as well as meet public safety concerns.

As a Board Member and now as President of the Independent Cities Association ("ICA"), Peter continues to provide leadership in balancing the competing interests of the region. His leadership of the ICA brings focus to addressing the unintended consequences of new state laws that result in unfunded mandates which cities in California must confront. His role as President will continue to focus on the unfunded liability of public pension plans on State and local finances. This ability to balance competing interests was most evident in his role as President of the ICA in forming the composition of a local joint powers authority, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperability Communications System ("LA-RICS"). LA-RICS is an effort to provide a regional communications system in Southern California, with a cost close to \$1.0 billion, which would allow first responders to emergency situations to communicate with one another. Peter's role was to ensure that the voice of small independent cities was represented on the board of this authority.

In summary, I can only and without reservation, highly recommend Peter Yao to be a member of California's Citizens Redistricting Commission. I firmly believe that Peter possesses the skills to balance the competing interests of the State. His experience in his professional and political arenas make him uniquely qualified to weigh and understand the issues which redistricting the State will present. My knowledge of his integrity and honesty also speak to his valuable qualifications to present the views of all segments of our diverse State.

If I can provide any further information or be of further assistance in this matter, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Edward W. Lee

Partner

of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

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