From: **Ingo Boltz** [redacted]
Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2011 at 3:06 PM
Subject: Letter of reference for Mesdames MacDonald and Glaser
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ingo Boltz, I am a freelance election technology consultant who has worked for a number of International Election-related Organizations, including the Carter Center, the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and Democracy International/USAid.

In 2008, I was tasked by the Carter Center with preparing an Election Observation Mission in the San Francisco Bay Area. In the weeks leading up to Election Day I interviewed Karin MacDonald and Bonnie Glaser at UC Berkeley several times to obtain insights on the US electoral system, particularly on the way districting / boundary delimitation works.

Mesdames Mac Donald and Glaser took several hours from their busy schedules to walk me through the details I needed. I was impressed by their depth of knowledge and plainly visible enthusiasm for their field of research. The US districting system is complex yet they were able to bring it all down to an intuitive level for me and spared no effort to make the relevant issues transparent to me, including colleague Nicole Boyle firing up districting software to visualize it all for me.

I found especially helpful the complete absence of partisanship in their explanations; as election observer impartiality is key and center for my work, and I must be able to trust that the information I obtain is non-biased. I never had the slightest doubt in that respect when talking to Mesdames Mac Donald and Glaser.

I can recommend them without reservations for activities that require deep technical knowledge combined

with complete impartiality, including redistricting consulting.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information. I am most easily reached via email [redacted] or on my cell [redacted]

Sincerely,

Ingo Boltz