

Elizabeth Echols
37 Conrad Court
Oakland, CA 94611

RECEIVED
FEB 06 2009
DISTRICT SECRETARY'S
OFFICE

February 6, 2009

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing to express my interest in filling the vacant Director At-Large seat on the AC Transit Board and ask for your support.

In a field of many outstanding candidates, I believe that I have the strongest combination of qualifications to fill this important position.

My passion to serve on the AC Transit Board comes from my belief that public transportation really matters now more than ever. I know this from my own experience. As a child growing up in Berkeley, I became dependent on public transportation at an early age. My mother was a single Mom with four kids. She worked and attended school so she did not have much time to drive us places. My sisters, brother and I relied on the bus to take us to school, after school activities, and to our friends' homes. Bus service was relatively reliable and available, and my link to the outside world. In fact, I did not own a car until my late twenties.

Today the need for public transportation, and especially bus service, is crucial to our community as a gateway to opportunity – transporting people to school, jobs, and medical care. For the 32% of AC Transit riders who do not have a car in their household, reliable and affordable bus service is a lifeline. For those who have only one car, cannot afford gas or cannot afford the cost of driving locally, bus service is a necessity. We need to make sure that youth, seniors, and others that are economically vulnerable have access to a reliable transit system.

I want to bring my enthusiasm for bus transit, combined with my executive, fundraising, governmental experience and contacts on all levels to ensure that today, in our difficult economy, the AC Transit system will be so reliable, fast, and convenient that those who have the option to drive, will choose AC Transit instead. My experience at Google gives me the knowledge and ability to show how we can improve customer experience by better leveraging technology to give riders more real time trip planning information. For example, AC Transit could offer riders the option to subscribe to alerts about delays on the riders' regular line.

Clearly, a well functioning transit system is critical to getting people out of their cars and reducing our carbon footprint. AC Transit investments in 'clean buses' combined with solid delivery of service will have a tremendous improvement on our air quality. As a Director, I will work to ensure that AC Transit

has the resources to continue to improve air quality and protect the environment by cleaning up diesel engines and expanding the hydrogen fuel cell program.

As you well know, in order to achieve this vision or even to maintain current service levels, AC Transit needs more funding. Funding is the biggest issue facing AC Transit, especially now. As a Director, I would leverage my skills, experience, and relationships to help get more funding for AC Transit. I have unique federal contacts, in that I spent the last three months working as a member of the Obama Transition Team in DC and have developed close relationships with senior incoming officials.

The experience and qualifications that I would bring to the Director's position include:

Public Policy Experience: I have over 10 years of public policy experience, including as a member of the Obama Transition Team, Clinton Administration appointee, and Director of Policy at Google.

Management and Board Experience: I have extensive management and board experience, including the most significant skill, working cooperatively and effectively with fellow board members. These positions include:

- * Senior management role at Google (2004-2008)
- * CEO and Board Member, OpNet Community Ventures (2001-2005)
- * Executive Committee, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
- * Executive Board Member, National Women's Political Caucus (local caucus)
- * Board Member, Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club
- * Board Member, Greater Metropolitan Oakland Democratic Club

Strong relationships with public officials at the local, state, and national level: In addition to my ties to the Obama Administration, I also have worked with and earned the respect of our state legislators and local officials through my work on the Executive Committee of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee and as a Member of the State Democratic Central Committee. These relationships help to make me an effective advocate for AC Transit, particularly on funding issues.

If selected for the AC Transit Director At-Large seat, I will dedicate myself to working tirelessly on behalf of the people and stakeholders in the entire district. I have the time and the energy to go beyond the call of duty and work with elected officials, community activists, and concerned citizens on behalf of AC Transit. Most importantly, I would work to build close relationships with my other board members so that we can meet the challenges ahead and build a stronger AC Transit system together.

Thank you in advance for your time and the courtesy that you have shown in making this important selection. I would appreciate your vote to give me the honor to serve with you on the AC Transit Board.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth Echols

ELIZABETH B. ECHOLS

37 Conrad Court, Oakland CA 94611

(510) 338-1088

e-mail: elizabethechols@gmail.com

OBAMA-BIDEN PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION TEAM, Washington, DC – Member (Nov. 2008-Jan. 2008):

- Co-led agency review process for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration focusing on Internet, telecommunications, and digital television policy issues.
- Interviewed current Administration officials to determine key issues and options for addressing them.
- Developed strategy papers and briefed Secretary-designate in preparation for Senate confirmation hearings.
- Provided input on technology issues for Economic Recovery Plan.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN, Oakland, CA – Co-Chair (Sep. 2008-Nov. 2008):

- Developed and implemented strategy for Democratic coordinated campaign, including voter targeting, literature, and get-out-the-vote efforts, as well as out-of-state phone banking for Obama.
- Raised nearly \$70,000 for coordinated campaign and Obama for America.
- Helped recruit over 800 volunteers.

GOOGLE INC., Mountain View, CA – Director of Policy (2004-2008):

- Managed development and implementation of global policies for ads, syndication, trust & safety, and nearly 40 consumer products, including Blogger, Groups, and Picasa.
- Co-founded StopBadware partnership <http://www.stopbadware.org> to combat the spread of spyware and malware. Developed concept, identified and executed partnership with key industry and non-profit leaders.
- Led policy simplification initiative resulting in estimated 30% time savings for ads reviewers.
- Built Policy Team of 30 people responsible for global content policy for all Google products.

OPNET COMMUNITY VENTURES, San Francisco, CA – CEO (2001 – 2004) & Board Member (2004-2005)

- Managed the strategic development, communications, fund development, program and financial administration for nationally recognized non-profit that prepared low-income young adults for careers in the technology industry.
- Developed and managed partnerships with the technology industry, community organizations, and government.
- Promoted organization's mission through speaking at national and regional events.

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, D.C. – Executive Director, E-Commerce Working Group (1999-2001):

- Developed and implemented Clinton Administration's strategy on Internet and e-commerce issues.
- Managed the E-Commerce Working Group consisting of approximately 60 members representing the White House and fifteen Federal agencies with diverse interests (e.g., Commerce, Treasury, State, FCC, FTC, FBI).
- Initiated partnership to bridge the global digital divide resulting in over 50 leading high-tech companies, foundations, and non-governmental organizations committing resources valued at over \$20 million.
- Negotiated G-8 Charter on Global Information Society to promote the growth of the Internet.
- Promoted Administration's policies on Internet and e-commerce through frequent speeches and press interviews.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Washington, D.C. (1998-1999)
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information (1995-1998)**

- Advised Secretary Daley on domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues.
- Negotiated agreements on range of Internet and telecommunications issues with top foreign government officials.
- Served as Vice Chair of the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference involving ministers and other senior officials from the ITU's 188 member countries.
- Planned and directed first China-U.S. Telecommunications Summit led by Commerce Secretary Daley.
- Developed and promoted U.S. goals and objectives at Ministerial Conference on Information Society in South Africa hosted by Nelson Mandela involving over 40 ministers from Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

STEPTOE AND JOHNSON, Washington, D.C. – Associate (1990-1994):

- Counseled clients on a variety of investment and international trade issues, including market access, export control, and commercial agreements. Supervised junior attorneys.
- Received business origination award for bringing in new client business.

ELIZABETH B. ECHOLS
(page two)

EDUCATION

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., June 1989

Note Editor, Stanford Law Review
Co-Chair, International Law Society
Member, Stanford Journal of International Law
Member, Stanford Law and Technology Association
Volunteer, East Palo Alto Community Law Project

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Graduate Diploma in Economics, June 1986

Rotary Foundation Scholar in Economics

YALE UNIVERSITY, B.A. in Economics and Political Science, May 1982 (Cum Laude with Distinction)

Founder and Co-Director, Yale Externship Program (*established program that enables 100 Yale undergraduates to work with alumni in areas of career interest during spring vacation*)
Research Fellow, London, England (*awarded grants to conduct independent research for senior thesis*)
Vice Chair, Yale College Council
Treasurer, Elihu Senior Society

SUMMER CLERKSHIPS: (received permanent job offers at both firms)

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, Washington, D.C. (6-88 – 8/88)

Summer Associate: Researched and prepared legal memoranda on international, legislative, and labor issues.

PILLSBURY, MADISON & SUTRO, San Francisco, CA and Washington, D.C. (6-87–8/87)

Summer Associate: Drafted commercial agreements and legislation. Researched and wrote legal memoranda.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION, AWARDS, AND AFFILIATIONS

Featured by **Business Week** as “Mover and Shaker” in E-Business

Profiled by **The New York Times**, **Wired Magazine**, **Business 2.0**, **CIO Magazine**, **The National Journal**, **Working Women Magazine**, and **Stanford Lawyer**

Member, Democratic State Central Committee

Elected Member and Executive Committee Member, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee

Executive Board Member, National Women’s Political Caucus (local caucus)

Board Member, Alameda County Democratic Lawyers

Board Member, Greater Metropolitan Oakland Democratic Club

U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal (1996) (*Highest honorary award granted by the Secretary of Commerce*). Received for leadership in achieving U.S. goals and objectives at the Information Society and Development Ministerial Conference in May 1996.

American Bar Association Section of International Law and Practice Award (1993). Received for “outstanding work and tireless efforts” in drafting *Report on the International Tribunal to Adjudicate War Crimes Committed in Former Yugoslavia*, Special Task Force of the ABA Section of International Law and Practice (July 8, 1993).

Member, California Bar (admitted 12/89) and District of Columbia Bar (admitted 12/90)

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4009
FAX (916) 327-1997

1515 CLAY STREET
SUITE 2202
OAKLAND, CA 94612
TEL (510) 286-1333
FAX (510) 286-3885

California State Senate

CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON ELECTIONS

SENATOR
LONI HANCOCK
NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



February 2, 2009

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: AC Transit Board of Directors Appointment

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors:

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of Elizabeth Echols to the At-Large seat on the AC Transit Board of Directors recently vacated by Rebecca Kaplan. Elizabeth is an exceptionally qualified candidate who will be a highly effective and dedicated board member.

Elizabeth brings a unique set of skills, talent, and experience that is particularly needed by AC Transit at this time. She has a proven track record as an effective advocate and a productive and collegial board member. In particular, her relationships with senior Obama Administration officials may help give AC Transit an inside track on federal funding sources.

I got to know Elizabeth after she returned to the Bay Area in 2001 following her service as a senior political appointee in the Clinton Administration. She quickly emerged as a leader in the community through her tireless energy, commitment, and dedication to improving the lives of others and protecting our environment. In 2004, I asked Elizabeth to serve as my Alternate on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. I was impressed with the strength of her advocacy, communication, follow through, and judgment in knowing when to take the lead and when to defer to her colleagues. Because of her significant contributions to the Central Committee, she was appointed unanimously by her colleagues to fill a vacant seat in 2005. She also was asked to serve on the Executive Committee. Elizabeth's demonstrated commitment led to her successful election to the Central Committee in 2006 and re-election in 2008.

During this fall's general election, Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council recruited Elizabeth to serve as Co-chair of the Oakland United Democratic Campaign (UDC). The result was the largest and most successful UDC operation Alameda County has ever seen. Elizabeth and her co-chair recruited over 800 volunteers, and in a very short period of time, raised nearly \$70,000 for the Oakland UDC and Obama for America. When I visited the Oakland UDC, the place was buzzing with a large number of volunteers reflecting the full diversity of our community. Elizabeth's demonstrated leadership, energy, and ability to organize people and money to get results could prove extremely valuable to AC Transit to gain support for future ballot measures and for the implementation of local projects.

Elizabeth puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She possesses a rare combination of considerable experience, talent, relationships, intelligence, and dedication. Her unique set of qualifications are particularly important in these difficult economic times and will enable her to hit the ground running.

Thank you for your consideration of Elizabeth Echols for the AC Transit Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Hancock".

LONI HANCOCK
Senator





February 1, 2009

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board of Directors:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
ANDREA TRABER, LEED® AP
KEMA SERVICES, INC.

Vice President
ANN LUDWIG
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

Treasurer
LISA MICHELLE GALLEY
GALLEY ECO CAPITAL, LLC

Secretary
JEAN HANSEN, RDA, CIO,
LEED AP, AIAHD
HOR ARCHITECTURE, INC

PANAMA BARTHOLOMY
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

LAURA BILLINGS
SAGE GREEN DEVELOPMENT, LLC

HM COYLE, LEED AP, CSI, CDT
PANKOV BUILDERS

GRANT FRENCH, LEED AP
SWINERTON INCORPORATED

BARRY GILES, LEED FACULTY
BUILDINGWISE, LLC

Executive Director
DAN GEIGER

Legal Counsel
DONALD SIMON, ESQ.
WERDEL ROSEN BLACK
& DEAR, LLP

I am writing to support the appointment of Elizabeth Echols to the AC Transit Board of Directors.

I have known Elizabeth since the fall of 2001 when OpNet's Board of Director's hired her to serve as our CEO. OpNet's mission was to create significant economic opportunities for low-income young adults in the technology industry through training and career development services, with a particular emphasis on people of color, women, and new immigrants. I co-founded OpNet and formerly served as CEO, Vice Chair, and then Chair of the OpNet Board.

Elizabeth took over the reins of OpNet just after the dot.com crash and 9/11. The economic landscape for non-profits, and particularly technology non-profits was bleak. Elizabeth, however, enjoys big challenges and was undaunted. Her vision, tenacity, and advocacy on behalf of OpNet and our students enabled her to secure grants and other funding to grow and expand the program in spite of the difficult economic times.

Elizabeth's interest in transportation issues stems from her own experience depending on public transit for many years, as well as her concern for the environment and commitment to creating access to opportunity for others. At OpNet, Elizabeth experienced firsthand the difference that access to transportation can make in gaining education and employment. Many of OpNet's students simply could not afford to participate in our training program without free or reduced price bus passes. Elizabeth worked diligently to secure access to grant programs that could supply these students with free bus passes.

Elizabeth is extraordinarily hard working, dedicated, and energetic. My fellow board members and I enjoyed working with Elizabeth tremendously both during her tenure as CEO and later as a board member. She is always well prepared, insightful, and skilled at raising the right questions to guide the board's work. She has a strong vision and good ideas, and at the same time is always respectful of her colleagues.

Elizabeth has a rare combination of intelligence, drive, and humility. Her management, board, and public policy experience, combined with her many talents, including excellent advocacy, vision, fundraising, and interpersonal skills, would enable her to add a lot to the AC Transit Board.

Elizabeth is an exceptionally well qualified candidate and has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dan Geiger
Executive Director
U.S. Green Building Council
Northern California Chapter



ONE FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 6TH FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the City Attorney
John A. Russo
City Attorney

(510) 238-3601
FAX (510) 238-6500
TDD (510) 839-6451

February 3, 2009

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors:

I am writing to urge you to appoint Elizabeth Echols to the vacant AC Transit At-Large seat.

Elizabeth is extraordinarily well qualified for this position. I could write volumes about her extensive experience, talents, and skills. Instead, I want to tell you about Elizabeth the person – the person who I have known since she was a teenager.

Elizabeth and I went to college together at an Ivy League university where we both felt somewhat out of place. Elizabeth though was highly in tune with those who were made to feel even more uncomfortable than we did. Following several racial incidents, some involving the campus police and others involving students, Elizabeth together with African American, Hispanic, and Asian students organized a Committee on Race Relations. The committee confronted the campus police about their actions and worked to educate other students about appropriate behavior.

I first got to know Elizabeth after she and other members of the committee came to my residential college to raise awareness about some racist incidents. Even at the age of nineteen, Elizabeth was an eloquent and persuasive advocate for equal justice. At an age when most people are focused on themselves, Elizabeth had the courage to confront an unjust situation, take on the campus police and other students, and organize people to stand up for what is right. Living in the East Bay today, this may sound like the obvious course of action. However, this was a very different time and place, and Elizabeth's actions were anything but ordinary.

I tell this story because it demonstrates many of the qualities I still admire about Elizabeth today: integrity, courage, compassion, commitment to justice, and the ability to see the world through the eyes of another. I would be honored to serve on a board with someone of her caliber.

I hope that you will agree that Elizabeth is an exceptional person and would make an excellent addition to your board.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Russo".

John Russo
Oakland City Attorney

Marge Atkinson
1045 Key Route Blvd.
Albany, CA 94706
510.684.9582 (c)

January 31, 2009

AC Transit Board of Directors
1600 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear AC Transit Board of Directors:

I am writing to urge your support for the appointment of Elizabeth Echols to the vacant At-Large seat on the AC Transit Board.

Elizabeth has a strong track record as an effective advocate and community leader. In addition, her public policy, management and board experience combined with strong relationships with public officials at the local, state, and national level make her uniquely qualified to be a valuable AC Transit Board Member.

I have gotten to know Elizabeth as a community leader and activist. Her vision, dedication, energy, and ability to build coalitions continue to impress me. Elizabeth is passionate about environmental protection and creating access to opportunity for underserved communities. She understands the importance of a well functioning transportation system to reducing our carbon footprint and as a gateway to schools, jobs, and health care. Elizabeth also has a demonstrated ability to understand complex problems with many moving parts and build consensus around solutions. She is the best positioned of the candidates to represent the At-Large district since she has used AC Transit in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties for many years. She also has gotten to know both counties through work on numerous campaigns and through her experience on the County Central Committee and the State Central Committee.

Elizabeth's board and management roles in the private, non-profit, and government sectors also make her an excellent candidate. She has the experience to know what questions to ask and to work cooperatively with other board members to achieve desired outcomes. Elizabeth's deep understanding of data and technology issues gained through her work at Google and in the Clinton Administration will be particularly helpful in guiding AC Transit to better use new and existing technology to improve service.

Elizabeth is clearly dedicated to public service and is passionate about transportation issues. She will put in the time and energy necessary to be a highly effective board member.

I hope that you agree that Elizabeth is an exceptional candidate and will support her appointment to the AC Transit Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Atkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marge Atkinson
Mayor of Albany

Endorsements/Support for Elizabeth Echols
Candidate for AC Transit Board of Directors
(as of February 6, 2009)

State Senator Loni Hancock

Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi

President, County Board of Supervisors Alice Lai-Bitker

BART Director Bob Franklin

Peralta College Board Nicky Gonzalez Yuen

Albany Mayor Marge Atkinson

Alameda City Councilmember Lena Tam

Alameda City Councilmember Marie Gilmore

Berkeley City Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

Oakland City Attorney John Russo

Oakland City Councilmember Pat Kernighan

Note: State Senator Loni Hancock is listed as a supporter. She has not formally endorsed anyone in this race. Everyone else on this list has formally endorsed me.

LAURIE CAPITELLI

Berkeley City Council
District 5

February 5, 2009

Rocky Fernandez, President
Alameda Contra Costa Transit District
1600 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Oakland CA 94612
610-891-7154
510-891-4705 FAX
rfernand@actransit.org

BY FAX
2/5/09 *lw*

Re: Endorsement of Elizabeth Echols for AC Transit Board of Directors, At Large

Dear Director Fernandez,

This week I had the pleasure of discussing with Elizabeth Echols her application to serve on the AC Transit Board of Directors. I was impressed with Elizabeth's grasp of the challenges facing our public transit systems and AC Transit in particular. After reviewing her history and service to the community, I wholeheartedly endorse her for the position of Director at Large on your Board of Directors.

Elizabeth would bring to the board a unique blend of education and experience. She has worked in the private sector in communications and policy, and served in a wide variety of capacities in the public sector. Her knowledge of and strong relationships with all aspects of government: - local, regional and national - will prove invaluable as the board moves forward with planning for the future. And as an East Bay native, she will understand the cultural and historical context of transit policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this most important decision. I hope you elect Elizabeth Echols to serve out the term left vacant by Director Kapan.

Please include this letter in any related packet of correspondence available to all the AC Transit Board Members.

Sincerely,



Laurie Capitelli
Berkeley City Council, District 5

Cc: Elizabeth Echols