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April 30, 2013

Honorable Members of the Oakland City Council
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Members of the City Council:

Three years ago the LGBT Roundtable in Oakland identified its top priorities for the coming years. Along with a community center, the issue of recruiting qualified candidates for the Planning Commission and Port Commission was of utmost importance. Mayor Quan has made it clear that any appointment to the Port Commission of Oakland must have both prior experience as a commissioner and be the most qualified person for the job.

Therefore, we were thrilled when she announced that Stonewall Democratic Club executive board member Michael Colbruno was her nominee to the Port. Michael has served with distinction for seven years on the Planning Commission, having been appointed by two mayors and having his term extended by a third mayor. He served as chair of the Planning Commission for an unprecedented 2 1/2 consecutive years and led the rezoning of Oakland and Port-related properties as chair of the Zoning Update Committee. No one in Oakland has deliberated on more land use related issues concerning the Port and its adjoining property than Michael in recent years.

He also has extensive experience on Port related matters from a number of other perspectives. For two years he staffed the Assembly Committee on Port for then-Assemblymember Carole Migden (D-SF). During that time he dealt with issues related to dredging, water qualities, fisheries, homeland security and the Tidelands Trust. Most importantly, he had the opportunity to visit other ports and observe best practices. He has also been a Port vendor, pioneering an innovative advertising revenue sharing agreement that has netted the Port millions of dollars.

His political experience and vast network in government will uniquely position him to advocate on behalf of the Port, bringing much needed new revenue and resources to the East Bay waterfront and Port properties.

We strongly urge you to confirm Michael Colbruno to the Port Commission of Oakland at your May 7th meeting.

Sincerely,

Brendalynn Goodall, President
East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club
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