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263 Athol Avenue, #4
Oakland, CA 94606
February 10, 2004

Honorable Jane Brunner
Oakland City Council
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Councilmember Brunner:

I wish to express my interest in serving on the City of Oakland's Housing, Residential Rent and Relocation Board. As long-time tenant, I believe that I can contribute important skills and perspective to the Board.

My experience as an environmental consultant has not only prepared me to analyze complex regulations and policies, but also to draw fact-based conclusions from them. I regularly provide environmental site investigations and assist in regulatory compliance management. These types of sophisticated analyses require me to be open-minded, aware of the larger picture, and mindful of precise regulatory schemes. I believe such skills will serve me well in evaluating the landlord-tenant disputes that come before the Board.

I also have first-hand experiences similar to many of the cases before the Rent Board. For example, as a tenant, I was confronted with an issue necessitating a renegotiation of my lease. The circumstance forced me to become aware of rent laws, my rights, and my landlord's rights. With this information, I was able to design an amicable end to the lease.

Finally, I believe that my qualifications demonstrate my integrity. I have a long record of volunteerism and community involvement that includes working for the Worldwatch Institute, mentoring troubled youth, and developing recycling programs. I believe that my commitment to the people and environment around me shows that I will be a fair and active contributor to the Rent Board.

Respectfully,



Michael Montag

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ORA/COUNCIL

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