

6.14.24

Victor Young

1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl

San Francisco, CA 94102

Community Support Letter to Rules Committee Consideration of Mayoral Nominee Stephen Engblom as Port Commissioner

Dear Mr Young,

I am delighted to write a letter of support for Stephen Engblom for consideration as a Port of San Francisco Commissioner. I have the highest regard for the role that the Port plays in ensuring that our northern and southern waterfronts are protected, thriving, and proactively addressing the challenges of adapting to climate change. In my role as the Chair of the BCDC Design Review Board, I am intimately aware of the responsibility that Commissioners at the Port have in ensuring that the best possible outcomes are achieved on these complex issues.

I worked closely with Stephen for almost 20 years during our time at AECOM, and I can attest to his expertise in infrastructure, real estate, and waterfront placemaking that have developed because of his diverse professional experience and background as an architect. Stephen has been a resident of San Francisco for many years, and as a keen cyclist, he has experienced the waterfront in all seasonal conditions, and has additionally committed volunteer time on many occasions to waterfront causes.

Stephen's work leading a large team on the Resilient by Design competition was an excellent example of his ability to foster strong community ties and mentor a younger generation of urbanists and civic leaders. His contributions to critical studies, such as "Five Ideas for Transforming the San Francisco Waterfront," demonstrate his commitment to protecting communities from climate change, restoring shoreline ecology, and improving waterfront access for everyone.

In recent years Stephen has increasingly specialized in Resilience, Urban Regeneration, and Equitable Real Estate. In addition to this, Stephen has made academic contributions to the community through his teaching in the Real Estate program at UC Berkeley. Stephen has had broad global experience as well in his professional career, which gives him valuable insights into precedents and best practices.

Stephen has always shown initiative as a leader, and he has the rare ability to distill complex issues into clear forward actions. This skill was instrumental in his development and global rollout of the AECOM Cities program, a holistic client-centered approach to urban infrastructure projects. His current role as founder of Engblom Architecture and Planning, where he advises on affordable housing and architectural design, along with his faculty position at UC Berkeley, further highlights his dedication to innovation and teamwork. Stephen is a consummate collaborator and is extremely skilled at resolving conflict.

Thank you for considering Stephen Engblom for this important civic role.

Sincerely,



Jacinta McCann