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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) nominates Keri Akemi-Hernandez for Urban Habitat's BCLI. We are excited for the opportunity to support a Napa community leader who already sits on several boards and commissions related to our current campaigns.

Keri is a local Northbay Community Advocate. She is an Indigenous (Mohawk, Seneca and Apache) womxn who is living on Mishewal Wappo, Patwin and Pomo land (also known as Napa). She was born and raised in the Bay Area. Her children are grown now, and she dedicates much of her time as a commissioner on several Napa boards and commissions such as the Mental Health Board, the Housing Commission, and more. She still has 2+ or more years left on both of her terms as a board member and commissioner.. As an Indigenous women connected to a diverse set of community organizing efforts in Napa, Keri is able to bring her different positionalities to her boards and commissions roles but has encountered process challenges that have exposed a learning curve that this training would be effective in helping address. This training would offer Keri a vital opportunity to deepen her knowledge of board best practices and give her the necessary skills to effectively govern and set policy in motion.

NBOP is a multi-racial organization composed of twenty two member institutions: *we unite people to build leadership and grassroots power for racial, social, economic and environmental justice*. We train leaders in order to address the social problems they face in their communities, and to develop campaigns that will change the structures that perpetuate these problems in the first place.

NBOP's campaigns are Roots, Roof and Refuge – Environmental Justice, Tenant Rights, Immigrant Defense and Police Accountability. Our campaigns are deeply intersectional because we understand that folks who are impacted by systemic injustice are often impacted by all of these issues, and that those who are closest to the pain are closest to the solution.

It is critical that we have leaders on commissions who understand these intersections and who are working to create solutions that are wholistic rather than siloed. NBOP is committed to working closely with our leaders – to support them and hold them accountable as they move onto commissions.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Orantes
Just Recovery Fellow, NBOP

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