



COUNCILMEMBER BRIAN MAIENSCHIEIN

FIFTH DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

November 18, 2008

Re: Letter of Introduction

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to introduce and recommend a leader in my community by the name of Karen Reimus and a non-profit organization called United Policyholders.

I first met Karen after she and her family lost their home in a wildfire that devastated my Council District in 2003. I have had many opportunities to work closely with her over the years, as she became an exemplary community volunteer and a civic leader in our area.

After the loss of her own home, Karen helped organized and lead her fellow fire survivors toward recovery, making many friends along the way in government and in our city. Her dedication to helping us apply lessons learned to become better prepared earned her a seat on our local Fire Safe Council. She has received numerous awards, and accolades, as well as media attention.

To further her work supporting others affected by natural disasters, Karen is an integral part of a national non-profit organization called United Policyholders, (UP). Karen has spearheaded the organization's work in my district and been an invaluable source of help for my constituents since an October 2007 wildfire again inflicted substantial losses in our area. UP is a highly respected and competent source of free help to homeowners and businesses that suffer large insured losses and need help getting fair and prompt insurance settlements. Karen is a compassionate expert on the disaster recovery process, including insurance.

Over the last year, Karen and United Policyholders have provided tremendous support to wildfire survivors in our community. Their Roadmap to Recovery program offers a range of support services that have helped our affected residents move from tragedy to recovery. I have personally heard from numerous '07 Firestorm Survivors what an incredibly positive impact Karen and United Policyholders have had on their recovery progress.

I highly recommend Ms. Reimus and United Policyholders as an invaluable resource for any community that has been impacted by a large scale natural disaster.

Sincerely,

Brian Maienschein
Councilmember