

February 5, 2004

Dear Interested Clients:

This letter is to offer testimony regarding the work of Bob and Karen Winget through my professional experiences over the past 12 years. My association with the Wingets has been predominantly with their support of the Cray User Group.

The Cray User Group, Inc. (CUG) is an international corporation of institutions that own or use Cray computer systems (supercomputers) with emphasis on high performance, technical computing. CUG is the primary interface between the user community and Cray Inc. In this capacity, it advises, negotiates, and collaborates on issues related to computational scientists and software engineers who are driving high performance computing (HPC) challenges. It hosts annual conferences, alternating between the U.S. and abroad. I have been elected several times to the Board of Directors, serving as Vice President (Program Chair) and President.

Through the 18 years of support for CUG, the Wingets have provided exceptional service on several levels. Because of their professionalism and overall responsiveness, CUG has continued to contract more and more activities with their company over the years. At this time, they handle a variety of our responsibilities including the following:

- International CUG Office support and management
  - membership correspondence
  - annual dues collection
  - Board of Directors support
  - CUG email lists and databases
- Conference Proceedings publications
  - hard copy, CD, Web
  - communication and coordination with speakers and authors
- Conference management - development and administration:
  - electronic and on-site registration
  - membership verification
  - on-line abstract submission system
  - on-line payment system
- Conference local arrangements
  - on-site CUG office coordination
  - policies and procedures development
  - timeline management
- CUG web site development and maintenance

I have found the Wingets to be absolutely invaluable to our organization; our partnership has been the backbone of CUG's success and growth. They have independently found ways to reduce our costs and improve/update our office processes in the areas of printing methods, conference advertisements, membership communications, more.

Bob and Karen Winget form an unbeatable team based on high standards and ethics. They are incredibly responsive, fair, timely, flexible, and reliable; and as an added bonus, they are wonderfully easy to work with and friendly. I highly recommend them to anyone seeking support in the areas outlined above.

Sincerely,



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Sally D. Haerer has been in the computing profession for over 30 years and in the high performance scientific computing environment (HPC) for the past 15 years. As Associate Director of the Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering (NACSE) at Oregon State University, her current interests focus on usability engineering and project management to facilitate web-based interfaces to databases for use by scientists and engineers. Past positions involved consultation with atmospheric and oceanography scientists regarding supercomputer code optimization techniques, architecture internals, and general HPC support and development strategies. She has experience with senior-level leadership of teams comprised of up to 20 software engineers in the areas of product development and marketing, consulting, web technologies, interface design, and software usability. She also has over ten years of university teaching experience in computer science and statistics. Haerer has significant ties with high-profile organizations at the national and international levels, and she has built and led teams of professionals from diverse backgrounds and agencies on a worldwide scale.