



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

June 15, 2011

Mr. Robert Klein
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
210 King Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

Re: Recommendation: Jonathan Thomas to Chair Position at CIRM

Dear Mr. Klein:

Thank you for your leadership at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine ("CIRM"). I commend the achievements you have made as Chair of CIRM, and I wish you well in your future endeavors. I write in support of Jonathan ("Jon") Thomas as the next Chair at CIRM.

I met Jon almost 20 years ago, shortly after my election to the United States Senate. Over these years, he has gained expertise in finance and developed the ability to raise money for state and local governments, public/private joint venture developers, and private equity funds.

Jon's work raising capital for corporate stem cell research exposed him to business and intellectual property issues, and he has a solid understanding of the peer review process and regulatory issues. Jon's experience as a patient advocate also helps him maintain perspective of the importance of CIRM's work.

Jon has succeeded in raising money under challenging circumstances. He was appointed to the City of Los Angeles Harbor Commission and the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority Governing Board to help fill a \$1 billion budget gap. Jon spearheaded an effort that drew in funding from federal, state and local sources, and closed the budget gap.

While CIRM has \$3 billion in general funds authorized by the California voters, economic problems in the state could delay access to those funds and require creative strategies for securing alternative funding to maintain and develop CIRM's numerous domestic and international collaborations. It will take a leader like Jon to confront the challenges the future may bring.

I strongly recommend Jon as the next CIRM Chair. Thank you in advance for your consideration and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator