memorandum to CHAIRMAN luján

TO: Chairman Luján

FR: Adam Blackwell, Midwest & South Deputy Finance Director (c 601-870-7290)

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2015

Dept: FINANCE

RE: DCCC LGBT Equality Council Conference Call

**Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 2:30 PM PST

**Dial-In:** Dial: (712) 775-7031

 ID: 357-907-487

*Note: Once you enter the ID Number, you will be automatically connected to the call.*

**Staff:** Adam Blackwell

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 Blackwell@dccc.org

**Purpose:**

This is a planning conference call for the DCCC LGBT Equality Council. Mitch Draizin requested you attend this call, following your meeting with him in New York City. The call will include Mitch, Members of the Council, and Chiefs of Staff. **Please THANK participants for their work on the Council this cycle.**

**Call Agenda:**

**2:00 pm** Congressman Polis begins conference call and introduces You for brief remarks.

**2:10 pm** Discussion of Upcoming Events and Potential Event Host Outreach:

* + Washington, DC – June 10th: Discussion of date and location – Adam Blackwell
	+ New York City – early October
	+ Los Angeles – Mitch Draizin and Adam Blackwell to report on host outreach
	+ Miami and San Francisco – Dan Bernal, *Office of Leader Nancy Pelosi*
	+ Chicago – Peter Karafotas, *Chief of Staff to Congressman David Cicilline*
	+ Houston – Adam Blackwell

**2:25 pm** Questions and additional discussion

**2:30 pm** Conference Call Concludes

**Notable Attendees:**

* Mitch Draizin
* Congressman Jared Polis, *DCCC LGBT Equality Council Chair*
* Eve Lieberman, *Chief of Staff to Congressman Jared Polis*
* Peter Karafotas, *Chief of Staff to Congressman David Cicilline*
* Kirk McPike, *Chief of Staff to Congressman Mark Takano*
* Dan Bernal*, Office of Leader Nancy Pelosi*
* Tim Persico, *Chief of Staff to Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney*
* Congressman David Cicilline, *tentative*
* Congressman Mark Takano, *tentative*
* Congressman Mark Pocan, *unable to attend*
* Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema, *unable to attend*

**Background:**

Mitch previously hosted an LGBT Equality Council Conference Call on Thursday, March 19th to discuss scheduling and plans to expand the Council this cycle. Annually, the LGBT Equality Council hosts events in New York and Washington, DC. Mitch has been instrumental to the formation and continuation of the Council over the years. He has traditionally hosted the annual NYC event, while the DC event typically falls during Washington, DC’s Pride Festival. This year, the Council is additionally planning to host an event in Los Angeles. Mitch and Members have expressed interest in including events in Chicago and Miami in the future.

On June 8, 2015, Mitch is hosting an LGBT Equality Council planning breakfast in New York City with DCCC LGBT Equality Council Chair Rep. Jared Polis. DCCC staff has reached out to Mitch to ask him to target high-dollar raisers to join the breakfast. The annual Washington, DC LGBT Equality Council event has been tentatively planned for June 10, 2015 pending approval on the Leader’s schedule, yours, and Member schedules. In addition, Mitch has agreed to host our annual New York City LGBT Equality Reception again this year, which is expected to be in October of this year.

**Attendee Biography:**

**Mitch Draizin, *New York, NY***

Mitch is the principal of Longview Capital Advisors, which serves middle market NYC real estate developers as a financial advisor as well as mortgage and investment bankers. Mitch is active in a number of not-for-profit organizations in NYC. He also volunteer teaches a high school course on Economics and Entrepreneurism in two NYC schools. Mitch’s husband Fritz Brugere- Trelat is Executive VP and co-portfolio manager of the Mutual Global Discovery products at Franklin Templeton Investments. Fritz is a graduate of the University of Paris, France where he earned a master’s degree in law and political science. Mitch and Fritz were married in New York on November 13, 2011. On September 7, 2014 Fritz became a United States’ Citizen. ***You met with Mitch in March 2015 in New York City. He contributed $10,000 to the DCCC following that meeting. Mitch and Fritz attended the September 29, 2014 NYC luncheon with Secretary Hillary as guests of the DCCC. On September 16, 2014 Mitch attended the Belgard for Congress event with Leader Pelosi. On September 15, 2014 Mitch co-hosted the NYC LGBT Equality Reception at the home of Tim Gunn. Unfortunately, Fritz was unable to attend. The reception raised $157,850 for the DCCC. On September 8, 2014 Mitch contributed $22,400 to the DCCC to finish his commitment of renewing his Speaker’s Cabinet Membership this year. On July 22, 2014 Mitch attended the NYC fundraiser for Kristin Sinema with Leader Pelosi. Mitch attended the Tim Bishop for Congress Brunch hosted by Judith Hope and Tom Twomey in the Hamptons with Leader Pelosi. On June 17, 2014 Mitch hosted a DCCC LGBT Equality Council Breakfast with Congressman Pocan and Cicilline in NYC that raised $16,100 for the DCCC. Mitch contributed $5,000 to the DCCC for this event. On March 21, 2014 Mitch and Fritz attended the NYC Issues Conference. On January 31, 2014 Mitch attended and contributed $5,000 to the DCCC towards the NYC Political Update. Mitch and Fritz attended the DCCC LGBT Equality Council event at the home of Tim Gunn on June 24, 2013. Mitch co-hosted this event and was instrumental in raising for it. On April 8, 2013 Mitch organized the first LGBT Equality Council planning breakfast in NYC at Evercore Partners (Office of Charles Myers). Mitch and Fritz attended the Inauguration in January 2013 as a guest of the DCCC. Mitch attended the DCCC 2013 Swearing-in Dinner with his nephew Ryan in Washington, DC.***

**Member Biographies:**

**Congressman David Cicilline**

**2016 Dues Goal: $125,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $15,000**

David N. Cicilline was born on the South Side of Providence, Rhode Island. After his family moved to Narragansett, David became interested in public service for the first time – regularly asking his parents to drop him off to attend school board and Town Council meetings. As a teenager, he organized a successful petition drive demanding that his school add Italian language classes to its curriculum. After graduating from Narragansett High School, David attended Brown University as an undergraduate and later earned a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Following law school, David worked as a public defender in the District of Columbia before returning to Rhode Island to practice law. In 1994, he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he soon earned a reputation as a fierce champion of political reform and gun safety, and his dedication to ethics won him Common Cause’s top ranking.

David was first elected mayor of the City of Providence in 2002, and re-elected for a second term in office four years later in 2006. David’s eight years in office were characterized by the implementation of a formal city ethics code, the influx of $3 billion in new investment, the lowest crime rates in more than four decades, and the implementation of a nationally recognized after-school program.

In 2010, after Representative Patrick J. Kennedy announced his decision to retire from the House, David decided to run for Congress. After winning the general election, David was sworn in on January 5, 2011, and immediately began fighting for common-sense policies to help get small businesses, manufacturers, families, and seniors through these challenging economic times.

In Congress, David has introduced legislation to create a Make it in America Block Grant to help small manufacturers retool their factories and retrain workers with the skills they need to compete in a global economy. He’s also introduced and co-sponsored a series of bills designed to revitalize Rhode Island and American manufacturing – including legislation to develop a comprehensive six-point national manufacturing strategy. David has also stood up to protect Rhode Island jobs by supporting legislation to hold countries like China responsible for cheating in trade matters by manipulating their currency.

David has also been a strong advocate for the more than 95,000 small businesses that form the backbone of Rhode Island’s economy. As a member of the House Committee on Small Business, he was an early supporter of bipartisan legislation, which was signed into law, to repeal the onerous 1099 reporting requirements for small businesses, which had required that small businesses complete 1099 forms each year for any purchase over $600 in value.

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, David has also been a strong voice for bringing our troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan as safely and expeditiously as we can. He has cosponsored legislation to create a National Infrastructure Bank, which would allow the Federal government to leverage public and private funds to put people back to work rebuilding our roads, schools, water systems, and more – right here at home. In 2011, David urged President Obama to remove all American troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2012.

**Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney**

**2016 Dues Goal: $125,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $0**

***Congressman Maloney is a member of the DCCC’s Frontline Program.***

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney proudly represents New York’s 18th district in the U.S. House of Representatives after he was first elected in November 2012.

Sean currently serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which is important to creating jobs and boosting the economy in the Hudson Valley. His priorities in the 113th Congress include strengthening the health and financial security of America's retirees, creating economic opportunity for New York families, and balancing the budget the right way.

Sean has a distinguished background in business and public service. Sean served as a senior advisor in President Bill Clinton’s White House as part of a team that balanced the budget and paid down the debt, all while creating over eight hundred thousand jobs here in New York.

When Sean left the White House, he built his own business from scratch. His high-tech startup created hundreds of New York jobs.

Sean then served as a senior staff member to two Democratic governors of New York, focusing on education and infrastructure projects. He oversaw 13 state agencies and departments, including those responsible for all homeland security, state police and emergency management operations.

Sean and his husband, Randy Florke, have 3 children together and currently reside in Cold Spring, NY.

**Congressman Mark Pocan**

**2016 Dues Goal: $300,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $25,000**

Following 14 years in the Wisconsin State Assembly, Congressman Mark Pocan was sworn in on January 3, 2013, as the U.S. Representative for Wisconsin’s second district, which includes Dane, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, Sauk, and portions of Rock and Richland counties. A small business owner, union member and lifelong advocate for progressive causes, Rep. Pocan is committed to using his unique experience from both the private and public sector to fight for polices that promote job growth and support the families of south central Wisconsin. In Congress, he serves on both the Budget Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and as 1st Vice-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Congress. Pocan has also been appointed to serve as a Senior Whip for the Democratic Caucus.

Rep. Pocan’s commitment to standing up for the middle class began in the home. Born and raised in the blue-collar town of Kenosha, Wisconsin, he learned about hard work from his parents, who each ran their own small business. At eight-years-old, he got his start in politics delivering literature door-to-door for his father, who served as a long-time Kenosha alder, and by the age of 12, he was attending city council meetings. Rep. Pocan received his degree from the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and then followed in his parents’ footsteps and opened his own small business, a union specialty printing shop that he continues to run today.

After three terms on the Dane County Board of Supervisors, Rep. Pocan succeeded Tammy Baldwin in 1998 as the State Representative of Wisconsin’s 78th Assembly district, covering central Madison and surrounding areas. In his seven terms in the State Assembly, Rep. Pocan made his mark as a tough, progressive legislator who could bridge Wisconsin’s political divide to forge legislative successes. During his time in the capitol, he served for six years on the Joint Finance Committee, including one term as the co-chair where he passed a budget during record state deficits that protected the priorities and services important to the people of Wisconsin. Some of his other legislative accomplishments included passing the American Jobs Act and Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act, both of which he wrote, as well as successful fights on paper trails for electronic voting machines, protecting collective bargaining rights and establishing domestic partner protections. His reputation as a legislator who produced results earned him the honor of Milwaukee Magazine’s “Best Legislator,” the last time the rankings occurred in 2009.

Being involved in his community is also important to Rep. Pocan, who is a member of Clean Wisconsin, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT), Sierra Club, Fair Wisconsin, Southern Poverty Law Center, Colombia Support Network/Apartado Sister City Organization, and the Human Rights Campaign. His dedication to his community is also highlighted by his long-time commitment to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. He became a Big Brother in 1989 and still helps the organization raise money so that more children can reach their full potential. Rep. Pocan’s “Little Brother” earned his Masters Degree from UW-Madison and now works in Washington, DC.

Pocan and his husband, Phil, were married in Canada in 2006 and live in Dane County with their dog.

**Congressman Jared Polis**

**2016 Dues Goal: $300,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $66,800**

Jared Polis is an independent leader who uses his private and public sector experience to find pragmatic solutions to the challenges facing Colorado and the nation. He has given much of his life to the cause of improving and reforming education. In Congress, he has become a recognized leader on school reform, as well as immigration, civil rights, the environment and tech issues.

First elected to represent Colorado’s Second Congressional District in 2008, Polis serves on the powerful Committee on Rules and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. He also serves on the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, as a Democratic Caucus

Regional Whip, as co-chair of the New Democrat Coalition Immigration Task Force, chair of the

Equal Protection Task Force of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and as co-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. Additionally, he founded and co-chairs the bi-partisan House Innovation caucus and co-chairs the U.S.-Mexico Congressional Caucus and the Congressional Caucus on

Nepal, and is a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors. Congressman Polis is also a Vice-Chair for the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition.

Polis’ top priority is ensuring that all Americans regardless of geography or economic background receive a world-class education. As a successful entrepreneur, he understands that

America’s economic success is tied to every child’s success in the classroom. He believes that education is the single most meaningful investment America can make in its economic future and in its people.

While still attending Princeton University, Polis co-founded his first company, American

Information Systems, a success he followed with the launching of bluemountain.com and

Proflowers.com. He has been named an “Entrepreneur of the Year” by Ernst and Young.

At home in Colorado, Polis first won elected office when voters selected him for a seat on the

Colorado State Board of Education in 2000, on which he served for six years including as Vice Chairman and Chairman. He also founded two innovative charter schools: the New America

School, where he served as Superintendent of, to extend the benefits of English literacy and a high school liberal arts education to new immigrants; and the Academy of Urban Learning, which educates homeless teens or those from unstable living environments.

During his first term in Congress, Polis served on the House Education and Labor Committee, where he introduced legislation reforming nearly every section of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which governs federal K-12 education efforts. His continued efforts in this area focus on getting accountability right at all levels, expanding educational models that work, and improving persistently failing schools with data-driven models to reduce achievement gaps.

Polis has been working with Democrats and Republicans to reform our nation’s broken immigration policies, to advance the cause of civil rights and equality for all, and to protect Colorado and the world’s natural beauty and environment since he was elected.

**Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema**

**2016 Dues Goal: $300,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $0**

***Congresswoman Sinema is a member of the DCCC’s Frontline Program.***

In the Arizona where Kyrsten Sinema grew up, strong schools and tight-knit

communities meant opportunity for future generations. The hard-working middle class could get ahead, and government was there to help ensure that there was opportunity for all who were willing to work hard and play by the rules.

After college, Sinema became a social worker helping struggling families. She soon realized that the problems they came to her with – poverty, homelessness, job loss, abuse – were common to so many families, and that solving these problems meant thinking bigger than one family at a time. It required fighting for real change to rebuild an America that works for ALL Americans.

So Sinema went back to school and started working at the grassroots level to help people access our leaders and talk about their needs. She helped them argue for better schools and fought to ensure that the services we fund were actually helping the people who need and deserve them. Her feeling was that if she could help these struggling people change the circumstances in which they live, instead of just giving them a food box and trying to help them find a place to sleep for a night, that she had done her job.

Because she believes that everyone should get the same shot and that the system should not favor those at the very top, she ran for the legislature and won.

There she worked to pass tough immigration laws, securing funding for our vets, working to provide business incentives for job creation and fighting back against attempts to gut basic health care for kids, cuts to services for the elderly and dramatic drops to school funding.

Sinema brings passion and knowledge to the causes she fights for – and a unique ability to win. In 2011, Kyrsten was lauded by the Arizona Republic for her “remarkable” ability to “partner with Republicans in both the House and Senate” to pass legislation while remaining “a staunch defender of key Democratic priorities.”

Sinema is committed to helping our country return to the values that make America great—the same values that have guided her life so far: hard work, access to public education, fairness and opportunity. Sinema takes her passion and talent into the 113th Congress, serving Arizona's Ninth Congressional District. She has been to appointed to House Committee on Financial Services.

**Congressman Mark Takano**

**2016 Dues Goal: $150,000**

**2016 Dues Received: $5,000**

For more than twenty years, Mark Takano has worked to improve the lives of Riverside County residents, both as an elected official and as a teacher at Rialto High School.

Born and raised in Riverside, Mark's commitment to public service began at an early age. His family roots in Riverside go back to his grandparents who, along with his parents, were removed from their respective homes and sent to Japanese American Internment camps during World War II. After the war, these two families settled in Riverside County to rebuild their lives.

Mark attended La Sierra High School in the Alvord Unified School District, and in 1979 he graduated as the school's valedictorian. Mark attended Harvard College and received his bachelor's degree in Government in 1983. As a student, he bused tables to help make ends meet. During his senior year, he organized and co-founded Ride for Life, a transcontinental bicycle ride to benefit the international development agency Oxfam America.

Upon graduation, Mark returned home to Riverside and began teaching in the Rialto Unified School District in 1988. As a classroom teacher, Mark confronted the challenges in our public education system daily.

In 1990, Mark was elected to the Riverside Community College District's Board of Trustees. At RCC, Mark has worked with Republicans and Democrats to improve higher education for young people and job training opportunities for adults seeking to learn a new skill or start a new career. He was elected Board President in 1991 and helped the Board and the District gain stability and direction amid serious fiscal challenges.

During Mark’s long history of public service in Riverside County he has served on the Community Advisory Board of the Children's Spine Foundation and the Board of the Chancellor's Asian Pacific Islander Community Advisory Center at the University of California, Riverside. He has served as chairman of the Riverside Mayor's Task Force on the Digital Divide, as a charter member of the Association of Latino Community College Trustees, as a member of the Association of California Asian American Trustees and as a member of Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education. He is a recipient of the Martin Luther King Visionaries Award.

Today, Mark Takano represents the people of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Jurupa Valley and Perris in the United States Congress. He serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee.

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