

COGENT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
May 21, 2002

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**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant   
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-11(c) or §240.14a-12

**COGENT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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**1015 31<sup>st</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
(202) 295-4200**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2002**

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Cogent Communications, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), will be held on June 13, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Company's principal executive offices at 1015 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, for the following purposes:

1. To elect two persons to the board of directors of the Company to hold office until the next annual meeting of the stockholders and until their respective successors have been elected or appointed.
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing matters are described in more detail in the enclosed Proxy Statement.

The board of directors has fixed April 22, 2002, as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

On or about April 29, 2002, the Company mailed to you an Information Statement providing details about the Annual Meeting that are substantially the same as those contained in this Proxy Statement. Due to the American Stock Exchange's requirement that proxies of all stockholders be solicited prior to the Annual Meeting, the Company is now providing you with the enclosed Proxy Statement and proxy card. Financial and other information about the Company for the year ended December 31, 2001, is contained in the Company's Annual Report of Form 10-K that was mailed to you with the Company's Information Statement.

**You are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person. Your participation in these matters is important, regardless of the number of shares you own. Whether or not you expect to attend in person, we urge you to complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as promptly as possible in the enclosed envelope. If you choose to attend the meeting you may then vote in person if you so desire, even though you may have executed and returned the proxy. Any stockholder who executes such a proxy may revoke it at any time before it is exercised.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,

David Schaeffer, Chairman and Chief  
Executive Officer

Washington, D.C.  
May 6, 2002

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**1015 31<sup>st</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
(202) 295-4200**

### **PROXY STATEMENT**

Cogent Communications Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), is soliciting your proxy on the proxy card enclosed with this Proxy Statement. Your proxy will be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, June 13, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Company's principal executive offices at 1015 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 and at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the "Annual Meeting"). This Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy card are first being mailed to stockholders on or about May 8, 2002. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 was previously mailed to you.

#### **Matters to be Considered at the Annual Meeting**

At the Annual Meeting the Company's stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon the election of two directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting. The proposals are described in more detail in this Proxy Statement. The board of directors knows of no other matters that are likely to be brought before the Annual Meeting.

#### **Record Date; Outstanding Shares; Voting Rights**

The board of directors of the Company has fixed the close of business on April 22, 2002 (the "Record Date") as the date for the determination of stockholders who are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, the Company's issued and outstanding capital stock consisted of:

3,419,492 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Common Stock"), which was held by approximately 192 holders of record;

26,000,000 shares of Series A preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Series A Preferred Stock");

19,809,783 shares of Series B preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Series B Preferred Stock"); and

49,773,402 shares of Series C preferred stock \$0.001 per share (the "Series C Preferred Stock" and together with the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock, the "Preferred Stock").

Holders of shares of our Common Stock and Preferred Stock are entitled to the following number of votes on all matters on which they are entitled to a vote at the Annual Meeting:

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holders of Common Stock are entitled to one vote for each share held;

holders of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to one vote for every ten shares held;

holders of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to one vote for every 7.7048 shares held; and

holders of Series C Preferred Stock are entitled to one vote for every ten shares held.

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The board of directors has nominated B. Holt Thrasher, a current member of the Company's board of directors, and David Schaeffer, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the board of directors, to stand for reelection at the Annual Meeting.

### *Reelection of Mr. Thrasher*

Pursuant to the terms of the Company's Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, only the holders of Series C Preferred Stock on the Record Date voting as a class are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting in the reelection of Mr. Thrasher. The holders of the Series C Preferred Stock have informed the Company that they intend to vote, or cause their shares to be voted, at the Annual Meeting for the reelection of Mr. Thrasher.

### *Reelection of Mr. Schaeffer*

The holders of Common Stock and Preferred Stock on the Record Date are entitled to vote at the Annual meeting in the reelection of Mr. Schaeffer. Certain holders of Common Stock, including Mr. Schaeffer, and the holders of the Preferred Stock will have the power to control approximately 84% of the total votes cast with respect to his reelection, and as such are capable of determining the outcome. Mr. Schaeffer and these holders of Preferred Stock have informed the Company that they intend to vote, or cause their shares to be voted, at the Annual Meeting for the reelection of Mr. Schaeffer.

### **Quorum**

A quorum is necessary for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, inspectors of election will determine the presence of a quorum and tabulate the results of the voting by stockholders. A quorum exists when the holders of a majority of the total number of outstanding shares of stock that are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are represented at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy. The inspectors of election will treat abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum and therefore, abstentions will have the effect of a negative vote for purposes of determining the approval of any matter submitted to the stockholders for a vote, other than the election of directors.

### **Proxies**

The shares represented by the proxies received, properly dated and executed and not revoked will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions of the stockholders. A proxy may be revoked at any time before it is exercised by:

delivering written notice of revocation to the Company, Attention: Robert Beury, Esq.;

delivering a duly executed proxy bearing a later date to the Company; or

attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

Any proxy which is returned using the form of proxy enclosed and which is not marked as to a particular item will be voted "FOR" the election of David Schaeffer, and as the proxy holders deem advisable on other matters that may come before the meeting. If a broker indicates on the enclosed proxy or its substitute that it does not have discretionary authority as to certain shares to vote on a particular matter, those shares will not be considered as present with respect to that matter. The Company believes that the tabulation procedures to be followed by the inspectors are consistent with the general statutory requirements in Delaware concerning voting of shares and determination of a quorum.

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition, the Company may reimburse brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares for their expenses in forwarding solicitation material to such beneficial owners. The Company has also made arrangements with Georgeson Shareholder and Registrar and Transfer Company to assist in soliciting proxies and has agreed to pay customary fees plus expenses for those services. Proxies may also be solicited by certain of the Company's directors, officers and regular employees, without additional compensation, personally or by telephone or telegram.

#### **Note Regarding Share and Per Share Data**

In connection with the completion of the merger of Allied Riser Communications Corporation ("Allied Riser") with a subsidiary of the Company (the "Merger"), which is discussed in the accompanying Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Company completed a ten-for-one reverse stock split. All share and per-share information contained in this Proxy Statement reflects the occurrence of that reverse stock split.

### **PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Two directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Nominees for election to the board of directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by those stockholders represented and entitled to vote on the election of each director at the Annual Meeting. The board of directors has no reason to believe that either of the persons named will be unable or unwilling to serve as a nominee or as a director if elected.

Abstentions from voting on the election of directors, including broker non-votes, will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors. Set forth below is certain information concerning the two directors of the Company to be elected at the Annual Meeting:

*David Schaeffer*, age 46, founded the Company in August 1999 and is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to founding the Company, Mr. Schaeffer was the founder of Pathnet, Inc., a broadband telecommunications provider, where he served as Chief Executive Officer from 1995 until 1997 and as Chairman from 1997 until 1999. On April 2, 2001, Pathnet, Inc. filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Mr. Schaeffer has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

*B. Holt Thrasher*, age 40, has served on the Company's board of directors since January 24, 2002. He has been a managing director at Broadview Capital Partners, and a member of its Network Technology and Services global market group since August 1995. Prior to that, from November 1994 through August 1995, he was a consultant with Omnipoint, a PCS service provider and developer of wireless communications equipment. From 1985 through October 1994 Mr. Thrasher was a vice president at Smith Barney's Merger & Acquisition Group. Mr. Thrasher currently serves on the boards of directors of SignalSoft Corporation, T-NETIX, Inc., the advisory board of Jefferson Partners Capital, LP, and the advisory board of MobileSpring, Inc. Mr. Thrasher has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors, including Broadview Capital Partners, and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

#### **Recommendation of the Board of Directors:**

The board of directors recommends a vote "FOR" the election of both nominees named above.

### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

The board of directors met eight times during 2001 and acted by unanimous written consent in lieu of a meeting on one occasion. The board of directors has a standing audit committee and a compensation committee, but does not have a nominating committee or other committee that would perform a similar function.

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The board of directors currently consists of six directors. The board of directors is divided into three classes: Class I, whose term will expire at the Annual Meeting; Class II, whose term will expire at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2003; and Class III, whose term will expire at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2004. The Class I directors are David Schaeffer and B. Holt Thrasher. The Class II directors are James Wei and Edward Glassmeyer, and the Class III directors are Erel Margalit and Helen Lee. At each annual meeting of the stockholders beginning with the upcoming meeting on June 13, 2002, the successors to the class of directors whose terms expired will be elected to serve three-year terms. If the number of directors on our board increases, the newly created directorships will be distributed among the three classes so that each class will, as nearly as

4

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possible, consist of one-third of the directors. The classification of our board of directors may delay or prevent changes in our control or management. Our directors may be removed either with or without cause at any meeting of the Company's stockholders by a majority vote of those stockholders represented and entitled to vote at such meeting.

Pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, as amended, entered into in connection with the Merger, Allied Riser has the right to designate a member to the board of directors of the Company. Allied Riser's designee has declined his nomination.

### **Audit Committee**

The audit committee consists of Edward Glassmeyer, Erel Margalit, and James Wei, each of whom is independent as the term is defined in Section 121(A) of the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange. The audit committee meets periodically with management and our independent accountants to review their work and confirm that they are properly discharging their respective responsibilities. The audit committee also:

recommends the appointment of independent accountants to audit our financial statements and perform services related to the audit;

reviews the scope and results of the audit with the independent accountants;

reviews with management and the independent accountants our annual operating results;

considers the adequacy of the internal accounting control procedures; and

considers the independence of our accountants.

The audit committee met on April 5, 2001 to receive the report of the Company's auditors. The activities of the audit committee were performed in conjunction with full board meetings at other times. The charter of the audit committee, as adopted by the board of directors, is included as Appendix A to the Company's Information Statement.

### ***Audit Committee Report***

To the Board of Directors:

We have reviewed and discussed with management the Company's audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2001.

We have discussed with the independent auditors, Arthur Andersen LLP, the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as amended, by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

We have received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from Arthur Andersen LLP required by Independence Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, as amended, by the Independence Standards Board, and have discussed with the auditors the

auditors' independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, we recommend to the board of directors that the financial statements referred to above be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Audit Committee:

*Edward Glassmeyer,  
Erel Margalit  
James Wei*

5

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#### **Audit Fees**

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Arthur Andersen LLP for the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2001 were approximately \$70,032.

#### **Audit-Related Fees**

The aggregate audit-related fees billed for professional services rendered by Arthur Andersen LLP for the year ended December 31, 2001 were approximately \$183,943.

#### **Financial Information System Design and Implementation Fees**

During the year ended December 31, 2001, the Company did not engage Arthur Andersen LLP for financial information systems design and implementation as such services and thus was neither billed for nor paid any fees with respect to such services.

#### **All Other Fees**

The Company engaged Arthur Andersen LLP to provide tax advisory services for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. The aggregate fees paid for these services were approximately \$60,000. The Company also engaged Arthur Andersen LLP to provide other services throughout fiscal 2001. The aggregate fees paid for these services were approximately \$16,285. The audit committee of the board of directors has considered whether the provision of these services is compatible with maintaining the independent auditor's independence.

#### **Compensation Committee**

The compensation committee consists of Edward Glassmeyer, Erel Margalit, and James Wei. The compensation committee determines the salary and incentive compensation of our officers and provides recommendations for the salaries and incentive compensation of our other employees. The compensation committee also administers the 2000 Equity Incentive Plan, reviews management recommendations with respect to option grants, and takes other actions as may be required in connection with our compensation and incentive plans. The directors serving on our compensation committee are all non-employee directors for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and are outside directors under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### **Director Compensation**

We generally do not compensate our board members for their participation on our board of directors. However as compensation for Ms. Lee's service as a director, on February 8, 2000 she received options to purchase 2,400 shares of Common Stock at a strike price of \$0.10 per share, which vest in equal amounts quarterly over three years. Ms. Lee became Chief Financial Officer in November, 2000.

6

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Set forth below is certain information concerning the members of the board of directors and executive officers of the Company. Biographical information regarding Messrs. Schaeffer and Thrasher is included under Proposal No. 1 Election of Directors. All executive officers hold office until a successor is chosen and qualified.

*William Curren*, age 54, joined the Company in June 2000 as President and Chief Operating Officer. From 1991 to 1999, Mr. Curren served as Group President, Communication Systems for Andrew Corp., a wireless communications infrastructure technology company.

*H. Helen Lee*, age 29, the Company's Chief Financial Officer and a director, joined the Company in November 2000. Prior to joining the Company, Ms. Lee worked in the LBO group of the Audax Group, a private equity firm in Boston, MA in 2000. From 1997 to 1998 Ms. Lee worked at Pathnet Inc., directing financing and corporate development activities. From 1995 to 1997, Ms. Lee worked in the Telecom M&A/Advisory Group at J.P. Morgan, where she participated in merger and acquisition transactions and advised on equity and high-yield offerings. Ms. Lee has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

*Robert Beury*, age 48, joined the Company in September 2000 as Vice President and General Counsel. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Beury served as Deputy General Counsel of Iridium LLC from 1994 to 2000. From 1987 to 1994 Mr. Beury was General Counsel of Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, a non-profit corporation set up to develop the high tech industry in Virginia.

*Scott Stewart*, age 38, joined the Company in May 2000 as the Vice President of Real Estate. He is responsible for leading a team of professionals to build the Company's nationwide network of multi-tenant office buildings. From 1999 to 2000, Mr. Stewart was a Vice President at Carlyle Realty, a division of The Carlyle Group, a multi-national private equity group based in Washington, D.C. From 1995 to 1999, Mr. Stewart directed the east-coast development program for Homestead Village, a NYSE extended stay hotel company and subsidiary of Security Capital Group. From 1993 to 1995, Mr. Stewart was the President of Potomac Land and Development Company, a Washington, D.C. metropolitan area real estate investment and consulting firm. From 1991 to 1993, Mr. Stewart was a Vice President and managed the Real Estate Owned properties of a Virginia based bank. Prior to then, Mr. Stewart served as a residential community developer in suburban Washington, D.C.

*R. Brad Kummer*, age 53, joined the Company in February 2000 as Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. Mr. Kummer spent the 25 years prior to joining the Company at Lucent Technologies (formerly Bell Laboratories), where he served in a variety of research and development and business development roles relating to optical fibers and systems. In his most recent work at Lucent, he was responsible for optical fiber systems engineering for long haul and metropolitan dense wavelength division multiplexing systems.

*Neale D'Rozario*, age 40, joined the Company in July 2000 and currently serves as Chief Information Officer. He is responsible for the Network Operations Center and Corporate Technology. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. D'Rozario was the Chief Information Officer for SunTrust Bank's investment banking division. While at SunTrust, Mr. D'Rozario was responsible for technology supporting equity and debt capital raising and trading activities. From 1991 to 1996, D'Rozario was the Global Managing Director of Technology for Barclays Bank, BZW Debt Capital Markets. There he was responsible for software development, third party package and integration network infrastructure. From 1986 to 1991 Mr. D'Rozario served as the Information Systems Manager at Salomon Brothers, Inc.

*Timothy O'Neill*, age 46, joined the Company in January 2001 as the Vice President of Engineering Construction. He is responsible for the network build-out and provisioning. From 1999 to 2001,

Mr. O'Neill was employed at @Link Networks where he served as Chief Network Officer. While at @Link, Mr. O'Neill was responsible for engineering, implementing, and operating an integrated communications network. From 1998 to 1999, Mr. O'Neill was the Vice President of National Operations for NEXTLINK. His responsibilities included the NOC, network assurance, central office construction, provisioning, and engineering. Mr. O'Neill has also held senior management positions with Time Warner Communications and Internet Communications from 1994 to 1998.

*Mark Schleifer*, age 33, joined the Company in October 2000 and currently serves as Vice President, IP Engineering. From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Schleifer served as Senior Director, Network Engineering at DIGEX/Intermedia, a provider of high-end managed Web and application hosting services. At DIGEX/Intermedia, Mr. Schleifer managed the Network Engineering group, Capacity Planning group, and Research and Development group. He was responsible for all technical aspects of customer turn up, network troubleshooting, field installations, and new equipment testing for the leased line business. Mr. Schleifer also coordinated peering and backbone circuit deployment to maintain network throughput and availability.



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*Thaddeus Weed*, age 41, joined the Company in February 2000 as Controller. From 1997 to 1999, Mr. Weed served as Senior Vice President of Finance and Treasurer at Transaction Network Services where Mr. Weed undertook a broad range of financial management responsibilities. These responsibilities included financial planning, forecasting, budgeting, financial modeling, acquisition, and international expansion strategies and pro-forma analyses. In 1999 he negotiated and completed the sale of Transaction Network Services to PSINet. From 1987 to 1997, Mr. Weed was employed at Arthur Andersen where he served as Senior Audit Manager, consulting on due diligence and operational improvement issues and performing audits of public and private entities.

*Edward Glassmeyer*, age 60, has served on the Company's board of directors since 2000. Mr. Glassmeyer was with Citicorp Venture Capital from 1968 to 1970, and The Sprout Capital Group where he was Managing Partner from 1971 to 1974. In 1973, he became a founding director of the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA). He co-founded Charter Oak Enterprises, a merchant bank, in 1974. In 1978, he co-founded Oak Investment Partners, a venture capital firm. Since July 1996, he has been an Overseer of The Tuck School at Dartmouth College. Mr. Glassmeyer serves on the board of directors of a number of Oak portfolio companies supplying network equipment and services, including Apogee Networks, Movaz, Telica, and Tellium. Mr. Glassmeyer has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors, including Oak Investment Partners, and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

*Erel Margalit*, age 41, has served on the Company's board of directors since 2000. Mr. Margalit has been Managing General Partner of Jerusalem Venture Partners since August 1997. He was a general partner of Jerusalem Pacific Ventures from December 1993 to August 1997. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Margalit was Director of Business Development of the City of Jerusalem. Mr. Margalit is a director of Bridgewave Communications, Inc., CyOptics, Inc. First Access, Ltd., InLight Communications, Inc., KereniX, Inc., SANGate Systems, Inc., MagniFire Websystems, Native Networks, Cyber-Ark, and Teleknowledge Group, Inc. Mr. Margalit has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors, including Jerusalem Venture Partners, and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

*James Wei*, age 34, has served on the Company's board of directors since 2000. He has been a general partner at Worldview Technology Partners, a venture capital firm, since April 1996. Prior to that, Mr. Wei was a Fund Manager at JAFCO Co., Ltd., a venture capital firm, from October 1991 through April 1996. Mr. Wei currently also serves on the boards of directors for Agile Storage, Caly Networks, CommVerge Solutions, iWorld Networking, Movaz Networks, Tensilica, 3ParData and

8

Force10 Networks. He is also a member of the Investment Committee of Meritech Capital Partners, a late stage venture capital fund with \$1.8 billion under management. Mr. Wei has been elected as a member of the board of directors pursuant to an agreement among the Company, certain of its Preferred Stock investors, including Worldview Technology Partners, and other affiliates of the Company whereby the Company has agreed to nominate certain designees to the board of directors.

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

*Summary Compensation Table.* The following table sets forth summary information concerning the compensation we paid during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 2001 to our Chief Executive Officer and each of our other four most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers at the end of fiscal year 2001 and whose compensation exceeded \$100,000 for fiscal year 2001. We refer to these individuals as our named executive officers.

**Summary Compensation Table**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation		Long-Term Compensation Awards		All Other Compensation
		Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Securities Underlying Options/SARs (#)	\$	
David Schaeffer Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	2000	\$ 218,827	\$		\$	
	2001	\$ 250,000	\$	478,700	\$	
William Currer President and Chief Operating Officer	2000	\$ 162,500(1)	\$		60,000	\$ 65,000
	2001	\$ 300,000	\$ 15,000		20,000	\$

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	Annual Compensation		Long-Term Compensation Awards	
Helen Lee	2000	\$ 25,949(1)	\$	47,400
Chief Financial Officer	2001	\$ 220,000	\$	100,000
Mark Schleifer	2000	\$ 50,533(1)	\$ 20,800	17,500
Vice President, IP Engineering	2001	\$ 208,000	\$	3,796
Robert Beury	2000	\$ 63,197(1)	\$	17,500
General Counsel	2001	\$ 196,000	\$	4,555

(1) Reflects partial-year employment.

*Option grants during Fiscal Year 2001.* The following table sets forth information regarding options granted to our named executive officers during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. We recommend caution in interpreting the financial significance of the figures in the following table representing the potential realizable value of stock options. They are calculated by multiplying the number of options granted by the difference between potential realizable value of the fair market value of a share of our common stock based upon assumptions as to an annual rate of appreciation of the fair market value for the term of the option, and the option exercise price, and are shown pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are not intended to forecast possible future

9

appreciation, if any, of the stock price or establish a present value of options. Actual gains, if any, on stock option exercises will depend on the future performance of our common stock.

Name	Options Granted(5)	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees In 2001	Exercise Price Per Share	Expiration Date	Potential Realizable Value At Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Appreciation for Option Term	
					5%	10%
David Schaeffer	478,700(1)	58.23%	\$ 2.00	12/1/2011	\$ 7,853,796	\$ 13,072,957
William Curren	10,000(2) 10,000(3)	1.22% 1.22%	\$ 2.00 \$ 2.00	12/1/2011 12/1/2011	\$ 164,065 \$ 164,065	\$ 273,093 \$ 273,093
Helen Lee	100,000(1)	12.16%	\$ 2.00	12/1/2011	\$ 1,640,651	\$ 2,730,929
Mark Schleifer	2,847(1) 949(3)	0.35% 0.12%	\$ 2.00 \$ 2.00	12/1/2011 12/1/2011	\$ 46,709 \$ 15,570	\$ 77,750 \$ 25,917
Robert Beury	2,847(4) 1,708(3)	0.35% 0.21%	\$ 2.00 \$ 2.00	12/1/2011 12/1/2011	\$ 46,709 \$ 28,022	\$ 77,750 \$ 46,644

(1) Referenced options vest 33% on the date of grant (December 1, 2001) and the remaining portion vests quarterly over three years.

(2) Referenced options vest 45.83% on the date of the grant (December 1, 2001) and the remaining portion vests quarterly over the subsequent 10 quarters.

- (3) Referenced options vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of the grant (December 1, 2001) and the remaining portion vests quarterly over the subsequent 12 quarters.
- (4) Referenced options vest 39.58% on the date of the grant (December 1, 2001) and the remaining portion vests quarterly over the subsequent 11 quarters.
- (5) For all options listed below, 50% of unvested options vest upon termination of employment in connection with a change of control.

*Aggregate Option Exercises in Fiscal Year 2001 and Year-end Option Values.* The following table provides information about options held by named executive officers as of December 31, 2001. The value realized and the value of unexercised in-the-money options at year-end is based on the assumed price of \$11.30, less the exercise price per share, multiplied by the number of shares underlying the options.

Name	Shares Acquired On Exercise	Value Realized	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options At Fiscal Year End		Value of Unexercised In the Money Options At Year End	
			Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable	Unexercisable
David Schaeffer		\$	157,971	320,729	\$ 1,469,130	\$ 2,982,780
William Curren			27,083	52,917	\$ 71,872	\$ 192,128
Helen Lee	4,133		52,767	90,500	\$ 313,620	\$ 634,300
Mark Schleifer			5,315	15,981	\$ 8,742	\$ 26,561
Robert Beury			7,347	14,708	\$ 18,567	\$ 46,544

#### EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

*David Schaeffer Employment Agreement.* David Schaeffer has an employment agreement that provides for a minimum annual salary of \$250,000 for his services as Chief Executive Officer. He also

10

receives all of the Company's standard employee benefits and a life insurance policy with a death benefit of \$2 million. The initial term of his employment is through December 31, 2003. If he is discharged without cause or resigns for good reason, he is entitled to a lump sum amount equal to his annual salary at the time and continuation of his benefits for one year. If he is subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, he is entitled to additional payment to reimburse him for all taxes, up to a maximum additional payment of 20% of the amount subject to tax. The agreement also provides that failure to elect Mr. Schaeffer's designees to the board of directors, his right in the Stockholder Agreement, constitutes a material breach of his employment agreement.

*William Curren Employment Agreement.* William Curren's employment agreement provides for an annual salary of \$300,000 for his services as Chief Operating Officer. The agreement entitles him to \$300,000 and continuation of benefits for six months in the event that his employment with the Company is terminated without cause or is constructively terminated. In the event of his termination as a result of a change of control, 50% of his then unvested stock options will vest immediately.

*Helen Lee Employment Agreement.* Helen Lee's employment agreement provides for an annual salary of \$220,000 for her services as Chief Financial Officer. In the event that her employment with the Company is constructively terminated without cause, the agreement entitles her to six months of salary and continuation of benefits for six months and all stock options to be vested in the quarter of termination will vest immediately. In the event of a change of control, 100% of her then unvested stock options at the \$15.00 strike price will vest immediately. In the event of an initial public offering, 50% of her then unvested stock options at the \$15.00 strike price will vest immediately.

*Mark Schleifer Employment Agreement.* Mark Schleifer's employment agreement provides for an annual salary of \$208,000 for his services as Vice President, IP Engineering. In the event that his employment with the Company is constructively terminated without cause, the agreement entitles him to one month of salary and continuation of benefits for six months and all stock options to be vested in the quarter of termination will vest immediately. In the event of his termination as a result of a change of control, termination without cause, or constructive

termination, 50% of his then unvested stock options will vest immediately.

*Robert Beury Employment Agreement.* Robert Beury's employment agreement provides for an annual salary of \$196,000 for his services as Vice President and General Counsel. The agreement entitles him to six months of salary in the event that his employment with the Company is terminated without cause. In the event of his termination as a result of a change of control, termination without cause, or constructive termination, 50% of his then unvested stock options will vest immediately.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The compensation committee of the board of directors is responsible for determining compensation for our executive officers and other employees, and administering our 2000 Equity Incentive Plan, our management incentive plan and other compensation programs. The compensation committee currently consists of Edward Glassmeyer, Erel Margalit, and James Wei.

The Company's compensation program is designed to enable the Company to recruit, retain and motivate a talented and diverse group of executive officers. The Company offers compensation packages comprised of a mix of base salary, stock option grants and annual cash bonus awards.

Salary ranges for the Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers are based on an individual's experience and prior performance as well as the Company's operating performance and the attainment of planned financial and strategic initiatives. The experience, performance and attainment of initiatives are evaluated by the compensation committee on a subjective basis and no particular weight is given to any particular factor.

11

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The compensation of the Chief Executive Officer was originally determined in negotiations with the venture capitalists who initially invested in the company in February of 2000, and is governed by the terms of his employment agreement that is discussed above. The compensation of subsequently hired executive officers was determined in negotiations between the Chief Executive Officer and such executive officers and in consultation with the board of directors and the compensation committee and in most cases is governed by the terms of employment agreements. Subsequent adjustments to the compensation of executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer have been made based upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer after consultation with the compensation committee.

The Company's 2000 Equity Incentive Plan provides for the grant of options to purchase the Company's Common Stock. All executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer participate in the 2000 Equity Incentive Plan. Options granted under the Equity Incentive Plan vary in their vesting schedule, but typically vest over the course of several years. All stock option awards to employees are made upon recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer and all stock option grants, including grants made to the Chief Executive Officer, are approved by the full board of directors upon review and recommendation of the compensation committee. As described in greater detail elsewhere in this Proxy Statement, all executive officers of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer were granted stock options under the plan during 2001.

During 2001, the Company paid cash bonus to certain of its executive officers as set forth elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. Determination of the payment of such bonuses and the amount of payment were made by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the compensation committee and the board of directors.

All Company executive officers also participate in the Company's benefit programs, including the Company's 401(k) plan and its medical, dental and other benefits plans.

As described above, the compensation committee periodically reviews the compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and each executive officer and determines the compensation for each executive based upon the executive's performance, the Company's attainment of certain financial and strategic objectives and other factors.

Compensation Committee:

*Edward Glassmeyer*  
*Erel Margalit*  
*James Wei*

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

During the year ended December 31, 2001:

None of the members of the compensation committee was an officer (or former officer) or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries;

None of the members of the compensation committee entered into (or agreed to enter into) any transaction or series of transactions with the Company or any of its subsidiaries in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000;

None of the Company's executive officers served on the compensation committee (or another board committee with similar functions) of any entity where one of that entity's executive officers served on the Company's compensation committee;

12

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None of the Company's executive officers was a director of another entity where one of that entity's executive officers served on the Company's compensation committee; and

None of the Company's executive officers served on the compensation committee (or another board committee with similar functions) of another entity where one of that entity's executive officers served as a director on the Company's board of directors.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's capital stock as of April 15, 2002 by:

each stockholder known to us to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of voting capital stock;

each of our directors;

each of our named executive officers; and

all of our executive officers and directors as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, shares subject to options, warrants and securities convertible into common stock held by that person that are exercisable as of April 15, 2002 or exercisable within 60 days thereof are deemed outstanding. Except as indicated in the footnotes to this table, we believe that each stockholder named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares set forth opposite such stockholder's name, except to the extent shared by a spouse under applicable law. This table is based on information supplied by officers, directors and principal stockholders. As of April 15, 2002, there were 99,002,677 shares of capital stock outstanding, of which 3,419,492 shares of common stock were outstanding, 26,000,000 shares of Class A preferred stock were outstanding, 19,809,783 shares of Class B preferred stock and 49,773,402 shares of Class C preferred stock were outstanding.

13

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Unless otherwise noted, the address for each stockholder below is: c/o Cogent Communications Group, Inc., 1015 31st Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20007.

Name and Address	Common		Preferred A		Preferred B		Preferred C		Percent Voting Control(10)
	Number of Shares	Percent of Class	Number of Shares	Percent of Class	Number of Shares	Percent of Class	Number of Shares	Percent of Class	
Entities affiliated with Jerusalem Venture Partners Building One Mahla, Jerusalem 91487			9,250,000	35.6%	3,296,704	16.6%	16,042,352	32.2%	25.1%
Entities affiliated with Worldview Technology Partners 435 Tasso Street, #120 Palo Alto, CA 94301			9,250,000	35.6%	3,296,704	16.6%	9,625,411	19.3%	19.7%
Entities affiliated with Oak Investment Partners IX, LP One Gorham Island Westport, CT 06880			5,000,000	19.2%	4,395,604	22.2%	9,583,300	19.3%	17.3%
Entities affiliated with Boulder Ventures III, LP 4750 Owings Mills Blvd. Owings Mill, MD 21117			2,000,000	7.7%	659,340	3.3%	1,203,176	2.4%	3.5%
Entities affiliated with Broadview Capital Partners One Bridge Plaza Fort Lee, NJ 07024					3,274,726	16.5%	4,439,721	8.9%	7.4%
Entities affiliated with Nassau Capital Partners					1,538,461	7.8%	2,205,823	4.4%	3.6%
ACON Venture Partners, LP 345 California Street Suite 3300 San Francisco, CA 94104					1,098,901	5.5%			1.2%
SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc. 3000 K Street, NW Suite 230 Washington, D.C. 20007					1,098,901	5.5%	4,973,129	10.0%	5.4%
Cisco Systems Capital Corporation(11)	710,216	20.8%							5.7%
David Schaeffer(1)	1,571,425	46.0%					1,604,235	3.2%	14.7%
H. Helen Lee(2)	74,091	2.2%							*
Erel Margalit(3)			9,250,000	35.6%	3,296,704	16.6%	16,042,352	32.2%	25.1%
James Wei(4)			9,250,000	35.6%	3,296,704	16.6%	9,625,411	19.3%	19.7%
Edward Glassmeyer(5)			5,000,000	19.2%	4,395,604	22.2%	9,583,300	19.3%	17.3%
B. Holt Thrasher(12)					3,274,726	16.5%	4,439,721	8.9%	7.4%
William Curren(6)	31,916	*			21,978	*			*
Mark Schleifer(7)	7,819	*							*

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	Common		Preferred A		Preferred B		Preferred C	
Robert Beury(8)	9,710	*						*
Directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons)(9)	1,766,274	51.7%	23,500,000	90.4%	14,307,034	72.2%	41,295,019	83.0%
				14				84.2%

\*

Less than 1%

- (1) Includes 135,000 shares of common stock held by the Schaeffer Descendant's Trust. Mr. Schaeffer disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares. Includes 211,425 shares underlying stock options.
- (2) Includes 69,958 shares underlying currently exercisable options.
- (3) Includes 28,589,056 shares of preferred stock held by entities affiliated with Jerusalem Venture Partners, of which Mr. Margalit is Managing General Partner, including: (a) JVP III, LP, (b) JVP III (Israel) LP, (c) JVP Entrepreneurs Fund LP, (d) JVP IV, LP, (e) JVP-IV-A LP, and (f) JVP IV (Israel) LP. Mr. Margalit disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- (4) Includes 22,172,115 shares of preferred stock held by entities affiliated with Worldview Technology Partners, of which Mr. Wei is a general partner, including: (a) Worldview Technology Partners III, LP, (b) Worldview Technology International III, LP, (c) Worldview Strategy III, LP, (d) Worldview III Carrier Fund, LP, (e) Worldview Technology Partners IV, LP, (f) Worldview Technology International IV, LP, and (g) Worldview Strategy Partners IV, LP. Mr. Wei disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- (5) Includes 18,978,904 shares of preferred stock held by: Oak Investment Partners IX, LP, Oak IX Affiliates Fund, LP, and Oak IX Affiliates (Annex), LP. Mr. Glassmeyer disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- (6) Common shares include 31,916 shares underlying currently exercisable options.
- (7) Common shares include 7,819 shares underlying currently exercisable options.
- (8) Common shares include 9,710 shares underlying currently exercisable options.
- (9) See footnotes (1) through (8) above. Consists of David Schaeffer, William Curren, H. Helen Lee, Mark Schleifer, Robert Beury, Erel Margalit, James Wei, Edward Glassmeyer, B. Holt Thrasher, Barry Morris, Scott Stewart, R. Brad Kummer, Neale D'Rozario, Timothy O'Neill, and Thaddeus Weed. Barry Morris, the Company's former Vice President of Sales resigned his position with the Company as of May 2, 2002.
- (10) Based on beneficial ownership of shares, with preferred shares converted in accordance with the voting provisions of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation, and assuming that all beneficially-owned shares only of the stockholder in question represent present voting interests.
- (11) Constitutes the number of shares of common stock subject to warrants issued in connection with the Company's credit facility with Cisco Systems Capital Corporation.
- (12) Includes 7,714,447 shares of preferred stock held by entities affiliated with Broadview Capital Partners, of which Mr. Thrasher is a managing director, including (a) Broadview Capital Partners Qualified Purchaser Fund LP, (b) Broadview Capital Partners LP, (c) Broadview Capital Affiliate Fund LLC, and (d) Broadview BCPSBS Fund LP. Mr. Thrasher disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

### The Company's Headquarters Lease

We lease office space in Washington, D.C. from a partnership of which our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, David Schaeffer, is the general partner. The annual rent for this space is approximately \$368,000 and the lease expires August 31, 2002. We believe that this lease agreement is on terms at least as favorable to us as could have been obtained from an unaffiliated third party.

### Series C Preferred Stock Financing

In October 2001, the Company issued 49,773,402 shares of Series C Preferred Stock for approximately \$62 million. As described in greater detail in "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management," certain of the members of our board of directors may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of the shares issued in the Series C Preferred Stock Financing. Additionally, in connection with this financing, the Company agreed that it would nominate the designees of certain of the Series C Preferred Stock investors to the board of directors of the Company.

### Employment Agreements

We have employment agreements with certain of our named executive officers as described in Proposal No.1 Election of Directors Employment Agreements.

## SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires officers and directors, and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of stock of companies subject to the reporting requirements of Section 12 of the Act to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. During the year ended December 31, 2001, the Company was not a reporting company under Section 12 of the Act and therefore, the Company's officers and directors, and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of the Company's stock were not subject the requirements of Section 16(a) of the Act.

16

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Our board of directors, upon the recommendation of the audit committee, has appointed Arthur Andersen LLP to continue to serve as our independent auditors for the 2002 year. However, in light of the ongoing governmental investigation of Arthur Andersen LLP and the uncertainty arising therefrom, the board of directors has decided not to submit that appointment to our stockholders for ratification at this time. Representatives of Arthur Andersen LLP are expected to be present at the annual meeting. Such representatives will have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

## STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Stockholder proposals intended for inclusion in the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the year 2003 must be sent to: Secretary, Cogent Communications Group, Inc., 1015 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, no later than January 8, 2003.

Rule 14a-5(e) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 additionally provides that stockholders desiring to nominate a director or bring any other business before the stockholders at an annual meeting must notify our Secretary of this proposal in writing at least 45 days prior to the anniversary of the date on which we mailed our proxy materials for the prior year's annual meeting of stockholders. Accordingly, for our 2003 annual meeting, any notification must be made by March 24, 2003. If during the prior year we did not hold an annual meeting, or if the date of the meeting has changed more than 30 days from the prior year, then notice must be received a reasonable time before we mail our proxy materials for the current year.



**OTHER MATTERS**

The Company has filed an Annual Report for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, on Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Stockholders may obtain, free of charge, a copy of the Form 10-K by writing to Cogent Communications Group, Inc., 1015 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David Schaeffer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: May 6, 2002  
Washington, D.C.

17

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**COGENT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002 AT 9:00 A.M.**

The undersigned holder of common stock, par value \$0.001, of Cogent Communications Group, Inc. (the "Company") hereby appoints Robert Beury and Ried Zulager or either of them, proxies for the undersigned, each with full power of substitution, to represent and to vote as specified in this proxy all common stock of the Company that the undersigned stockholder would be entitled to vote if present in person at Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, June 13, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Company's principal executive offices at 1015 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 and at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the "Annual Meeting"). The undersigned stockholder hereby revokes any proxy or proxies heretofore executed for such matters.

This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned stockholder. **If no direction is given, this proxy will be voted "FOR" the proposal and in the discretion of the proxies as to any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.** The undersigned stockholder may revoke this proxy at any time before it is voted by delivering to the Secretary of the Company either a written revocation of the proxy or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by appearing at the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL NO. 1.

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED RETURN ENVELOPE.

*(SEE REVERSE SIDE)*

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*(Reverse)*

Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
COGENT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.  
June 13, 2002

ý Please mark votes as in this example.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" Proposal No. 1.**

- 
1. PROPOSAL NO. 1 Election of Directors  
o FOR the nominee listed below (except as marked to the contrary).

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o WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for the nominee listed below.

Nominee:

David Schaeffer.

(INSTRUCTIONS:

to withhold authority to vote for the nominee, mark the "WITHHOLD AUTHORITY" box.)

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2. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement in which Proposal No. 1 is fully explained.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (if held jointly): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please date and sign exactly as your name(s) is (are) shown on the share certificate(s) to which the proxy applies. When shares are held as joint-tenants, both should sign. When signing as an executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, attorney-in-fact or other fiduciary, please give full title as such. When signing as a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by President or other authorized officer. When signing as a partnership, please sign in partnership name by an authorized person.

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### QuickLinks

[NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2002](#)

[PROXY STATEMENT](#)

[PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS](#)

[THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES](#)

[DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS](#)

[EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION](#)

[EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS](#)

[COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION](#)

[COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION](#)

[SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT](#)

[CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS](#)

[SECTION 16\(a\) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE](#)

[INDEPENDENT AUDITORS](#)

[STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS](#)

[OTHER MATTERS](#)