

## Elisa Odabashian



Elisa Odabashian is the Director of State Programs and the West Coast Office for Consumers Union, the advocacy arm of Consumer Reports. She is a widely-quoted expert on food safety and sustainability, product safety, financial services, corporate accountability, energy, dietary supplements, milk prices, antibiotics in meat production, and genetically modified organisms. In addition to managing Consumers Union's West Coast Office, Ms. Odabashian oversees Consumers Union's Food and Product Safety Program, Financial Services Program, Grassroots Organizing team, and two national food safety campaigns. On behalf of Consumers Union, Ms. Odabashian has served on governmental and foundation advisory bodies, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Advisory Committee, the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Advisory Committee, and the California Consumer Protection Foundation.

In 1998, Ms. Odabashian spearheaded the launch of Consumers Union's advocacy web site at [www.consumersunion.org](http://www.consumersunion.org). In 2006, Ms. Odabashian designed and implemented a web-based tool called LobbyLog™, which tracks Consumers Union's federal and multi-state lobbying activities. Ms. Odabashian also oversees the reporting of Consumers Union's lobbying communications to federal and state authorities.

Ms. Odabashian joined Consumers Union in 1993 and became Director of the West Coast Office in 2006. Prior to coming to Consumers Union, Ms. Odabashian served as Telecommunications Director for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Project for the socially progressive internet service provider, Institute for Global Communications. The UN conference took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. During most of the 1980s, Ms. Odabashian owned and operated a retail food franchise business. For a number of years prior to starting her business, Ms. Odabashian was an Admissions Office and Assistant Director of Career Planning for Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Ms. Odabashian received a B.A. in English from Scripps College, an M.A. in English from Claremont Graduate University, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.