

Oregon State Senate  
Senate Committee on Rules  
Salem, Oregon 97310

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod and members of the committee:

I am writing to support the senate confirmation of Governor Brown's appointment of Sophorn Cheang to the position of Business Oregon Director.

It is my hope that you will consider the input from those of us who have first hand knowledge and experience related to Sophorn's character, leadership qualities, business acumen, and deep commitment to Oregon's economic future.

During Sophorn's tenure as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Affirmative Action and co-coordinator of the Governor's Racial Justice Council, she has used her leadership skills to create a comprehensive plan for implementation by the state agency leaders with the full support from Governor Brown. This work has required learning about and effectively executing state government policy making, work with state statutes and budget processes, as well as human resource policies and labor/management relations. Sophorn's extensive experience as a community and nonprofit has prepared her to bring together racially and ethnically diverse communities with often divergent interests to work together throughout the State of Oregon. Her leadership experience in the nonprofit and volunteer sectors have prepared her to be an authentic listener and prepared her to work effectively with appointed and elected officials, boards and commissions.

I believe being successful as the next Business Oregon Director requires a shared vision for Oregon's economic future that is supported by key stakeholders and strategic partners. This will require the alignment of shared interests needed to realize the true economic recovery we now need and future prosperity of all urban and rural communities in the State of Oregon.

Sophorn Cheang's confirmation by the Oregon Senate will enable a proven leader with the right combination of business and professional experiences, community support, as well as knowledge of state government policies and practices to this important leadership position. I sincerely believe she is uniquely qualified to be successful as the next Business Oregon director.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicki Nakashima  
Community Volunteer and Advocate

503-516-3505

Copies to: Senator Ginny Burdick Senator James Manning, Senator Kim Thatcher, Kristina Rice-Whitlow, Sophorn Cheang