



Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs

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January 21, 2021

Chair Rob Wagner
Vice Chair Fred Girod
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Senate

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

As Chairman and Founder of OAME, one of the state's only, and longest lasting and successful non-profit organizations working for the development of minority entrepreneurship and economic development in both Oregon and SW Washington, it is my pleasure to write you in support of Governor Brown's nomination of **Sophorn Cheang**, the Governor's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, to the position of the Director of Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency. OAME has worked with the state's economic development department in our over 34 years in operation helping MWESBSDV companies grow and succeed.

Ms. Cheang has been a leader in not only her duties in the Governor's office, but in the private sector, and the community as well. Beginning as a recognized student in her undergraduate days, and later getting her Master's in Business Administration from Willamette University, for not only being an exemplary student but her involvement in the community. Add that to her professional life and private business experience, building international relationships, up to and including when she was promoted to the Director of IRCO Asian Family Center in 2016.

In 2018 Governor Brown, picked her to join her office as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Affirmative Action, and Co-Coordinator of the Racial Justice Council, which experience she will bring in true support for businesses of all types to the Business Oregon office. Her knowledge gained over time of leadership, organizational management, program development, partnership and community engagement, business equity and economic inclusion, from her work currently, and previously as the leader of IRCO is invaluable. We feel she will bring the needed qualities to the Department's Mission "to invest in Oregon businesses, communities, and people to promote a globally competitive diverse and inclusive economy" and take it to the next level to meet the Vision of "Prosperity for all Oregonians".

It is my hope, on behalf of OAME, that your Committee will endorse and recommend Sophorn Cheang for the Director of Business Oregon.

Cordially,

Samuel Brooks
Chairman and Founder
Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs

cc: Senator Burdick, Senator Manning, Senator Thatcher, Leslie Porter, Kristina Rice-Whitlow,
Sophorn Cheang