

February 15, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

Thank you for your service to your community and to all Oregonians, especially during this trying time of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you and yours have been staying safe and well.

This letter is to express my whole-hearted support for the confirmation of Ms. Sophorn Cheang as the next Director of Oregon Business Development Department operating as Business Oregon. Ms. Cheang is uniquely qualified to be the next Business Oregon Director given her leadership and experience in government, private, and non-profit sectors. She would be the first Woman of Color to hold this position, at a time when both private and public entities are very much focused on enhancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in leadership as well as in elected office.

I have known Ms. Cheang for over fifteen (15) years and have seen her excel in all her professional and lived experience. I can attest to her character, ethics and integrity, and her commitment to excellence in both private and public endeavors. Ms. Cheang's qualifications to become the next Business Oregon Director are clearly apparent given her executive and managerial experience with her history of performance in her numerous roles in government, private, and non-profit sectors, and community service such as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Co-Coordinator of the Racial Justice Council at the Office of Governor Kate Brown, Director of Asian Family Center & Senior Manager of Community Development Department at Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Executive Director at Golden Leaf Education Foundation, Advisory Board Member at Cambodia-American Community of Oregon, Founding Board President of Building Power for Communities of Color, Founding Board Member and Treasurer of Red Means Help, and Founding Board Member and Treasurer of Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce.

I have been a small business owner for over thirty-two (32) years in Oregon in the technology sector as well as consulting services for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and served in many capacities such as Chair of Oregon Governor's Small Business Council, Proposer Portland Council on Economic and Racial Equity, City of Portland COVID-19 Economic Impact Task Force and Economic Recovery task Force among others. It is important for the top person in any department to not only have the technical qualifications, but to have a diverse background both professionally and personally, and demonstrated skills in collaborating with people. Ms. Cheang has these qualifications and no doubt would lead Business Oregon as a top Director of this department. Her business and finance higher education degrees speaks to her qualification and she will govern with strong listening, analytical, data-driven, community-based, and leadership skills.

I urge Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules to confirm Ms. Sophorn Cheang as the next Director of Business Oregon.

Please call me at (503) 708-655 or email at ccryan@synergyhq.com if you have any questions or to discuss Ms. Cheang's qualifications.

Thank you for your consideration!

Yours respectfully,



Christine Chin Ryan
President, Synergy Consulting, Inc.
National Organization for Women (NOW) Board of Directors
NOW PAC Board
Oregon NOW President
Prosper Portland Council on Economic and Racial Equity Subcommittees:
 Portland Means Progress & CBA/PLA
City of Portland Economic Recovery Task
Rose Quarter Community Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC)
Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) Board of Governors
Oregon Small Business for Responsible Leadership (OSBRL) Chair
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cc: Senator Ginny Burdick
 Senator James Manning
 Senator Kim Thatcher
 Leslie Porter
 Kristina Rice-Whitlow
 Sophorn Cheang