



February 17, 2021

Senator Rob Wagner
Chair, Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Fred Girod
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for Sophorn Cheang for the Business Oregon Director Position

Dear Senators:

Thank you for taking the time to accept this letter of support for my accomplished and respected colleague, Sophorn Cheang, as she presents herself for confirmation before your august committee. Please understand that everything that follows will be my absolute and untrammelled position of support for your wisdom in her selection, and my urging for your speedy confirmation of this most excellent candidate.

I did not come to this perspective lightly. I have worked with Ms. Cheang in many of her various roles over time:

- In her current role as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Affirmative Action working for our Governor, she has been instrumental in advancing the work of the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), the organization I serve, through her outreach, advice, inclusion, support on Governor Brown's Racial Justice Council, and beyond. She has demonstrated daily her devotion to serving the people of Oregon;
- In her role as Governor Kate Brown's representative shepherding the census efforts (Oregon Complete Count Committee), a committee on which I served as Co-Chair, she helped ensure that Oregon's citizens were counted, particularly the hard to chronicle populations; Oregon finished as one of the most complete counted states;
- In her role as Board President of Building Power for Communities of Color (BPCC), the 501 (c)(4) sister organization to CCC that endeavors to promote equity through the development of political power for disenfranchised communities. Her leadership on this body has led to growth, increased development opportunities and a criticality of purpose that has made an impact in Oregon;

- In her role at IRCO (Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization) as Director of the Asian Family Center, I have seen her work tirelessly for the Asian and Pacific islander community in our region, from program development to strategy to collaborative projects to delivery of services and implementation. She also contributed to CCC by participating in collective advocacy, programs and services efforts;
- And more;

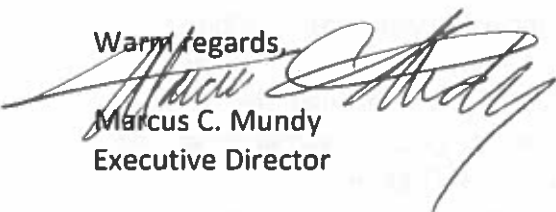
I have found her, in all of these many and varied settings, to exhibit the reliable through lines of honest advice and dialogue, a passion for the Oregon community, and attention to detail without sacrificing the big picture strategic view essential for any organizational leader, while simultaneously being the consummate advocate for her staff and collaborators as she seeks the best solutions for the work at hand.

She also brings a perspective and sensitivity unique to any of her predecessors in this role: she arrives as an immigrant, a mother, a leader graduating from no less than three bastions of higher education in our state, and a professional uniquely qualified to imbue Business Oregon with the necessary focus on equity embraced by the Governor and many other leaders in the state. Such a vision will be important to enticing business to Oregon's ever changing demographics, and expanding the innovation needed to keep our current businesses competitive.

Sophorn is a kind, attentive, and compassionate leader, who will make Business Oregon stronger, and reflect the interests for all of Oregon.

Please consider this recommendation but a small fraction of the confidence I have in your selection of Sophorn Cheang to lead this important agency. Thank you for your time and attention, and please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Warm regards,


Marcus C. Mundy
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Ginny Burdick
Senator James Manning
Senator Kim Thatcher
Leslie Porter
Kristina Rice-Whitlow
Sophorn Cheang