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AFRICA HOUSE
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February 10, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules

RE: Support of Senate Confirmation of Sophorn Cheang as Director of Business Oregon

Dear Senator Rob Wagner, Senator Fred Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

This letter is in strong and solid endorsement of the appointment of Sophorn Cheang to serve as the Director of Business Oregon. As the Executive Director of the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization/IRCO, one of Oregon's largest community-based organizations with a mission to promote the integration of refugees, immigrants, and the community at large into a self-sufficient, healthy, and inclusive multiethnic society, I understand and value the importance of diversifying state government and making the economy more equitable.

Ms. Cheang brings years of experience and a strong background in financial and organizational management, as well as hands-on understanding of promoting equity and social justice. In her work as Senior Community Development Manager and Director of IRCO's Pacific Islander & Asian Family Center, Ms. Cheang developed and implemented culturally specific programs and services for the rapidly growing diverse group of immigrants and refugees living in Oregon, as well as organized community leaders throughout the state to engage in advocacy work on social and racial injustices. Ms. Cheang also found time in her busy schedule to complete her Masters of Business Administration from Willamette University and volunteer her time as a true compassionate leader in community organizing efforts like the Cambodian-American Community of Oregon and the Golden Leaf Education Foundation.

I strongly believe that Ms. Cheang will be a true asset to the important work of Business Oregon in its role as the state's largest economic development agency, especially in recovering from the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, and leading Oregon in a more equitable and inclusive approach to engaging all of Oregon's residents and businesses.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my support of Ms. Cheang.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Po Cha', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Lee Po Cha
Executive Director