

January 21, 2021

Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Rob Wagner
Senator Fred Girod

Via Email to: Sen.RobWagner@OregonLegislature.gov
Sen.FredGirod@OregonLegislature.gov

Subject: Senate Confirmation for Business Oregon Director

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

The Community Chamber Coalition of Oregon supports the recommendation to confirm Sophorn Cheang's appointment as Director of Business Oregon. We agree with Governor Brown that Ms. Cheang will bring a strong competency to 'lead the state agency towards an inclusive economy that will promote Oregon as a competitive, diverse and inclusive economy.'

Sophorn Cheang has proven experience and demonstrated qualities in finance, budgeting, and executive leadership that is most required to lead the state's economic development agency. Her strength in relationship building, policymaking, advocacy, and cultural sensitivity and change grounded with her academic acumen gives her a robust foundation for the work ahead.

As events of the past of 2020 have fully exposed the precarity and inequity inherent in our economic system, the need has never been greater for leadership towards a comprehensive, inclusive economic policy with built-in transparency that supports community resilience at the state level. Even before the pandemic hit, it was no secret that economic policy in Oregon heavily favors large, established companies whose influence is compounded by generations of inequitable wealth consolidation and the innumerable advantages therein. Economic policy and budgets did not include small historically disadvantaged and underserved minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses in state and local economic development planning.

We believe that Sophorn brings a perspective to effect change for a resilient recovery. Her ability to foster relationships with the community and business leaders will allow laying the framework for an inclusive, equitable economy with improved policies, processes, and procedures.

We, community leaders of culturally specific organizations noted below, submit our support for the confirmation of Sophorn Cheang to the appointment as Director of Business Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMMUNITY CHAMBER COALITION OF OREGON

Jesse Hyatt
Executive
Director
Black American
Chamber of
Commerce
(BACC)

Carmen Castro
Executive
Director
Hispanic
Metropolitan
Chamber (HMC)

James Parker
Co-Chair, CCCO
Executive
Director
Oregon Native
American
Chamber (ONAC)

Janice Mason
Co-Chair, CCCO
President
Philippine
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Chamber of
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Oregon (PACCO)

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