

Partners in Diversity

February 7, 2021

The Honorable Rob Wagner, Chairman
The Honorable Fred Girod, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of support for Sophorn Cheang, Business Oregon Director

Dear Chairman Wagner, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the committee,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my support for the appointment of Ms. Sophorn Cheang to the position of director of Business Oregon. I am the executive director of the nonprofit Partners In Diversity which is an affiliate of the Portland Business Alliance.

I have known Ms. Cheang since 2014 when she was the senior manager at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). I have watched her take on bigger and bigger leadership roles competently through the years including as the director of Asian Family Center and in her current role in the governor's office as the director of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Sophorn will bring her perspectives, experiences and leadership skills to this new role along with her ability to build collaborative relationships. I have no doubt that she will excel as director of Business Oregon.

Sincerely,



Mari Watanabe
Executive Director