

February 5th, 2021

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

It is with great honor that I write in support of the upcoming senate confirmation of Sophorn Cheang to serve as Director of Business Oregon.

Over the past years, Sophorn has had a positive and impactful relationship with Causa and has demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting equity, social & racial justice. I am confident that she will be a great asset to Business Oregon. She has been an essential partner in creating cultural change and building leadership capacity through education, advocacy, collaboration, and community organizing. She has a demonstrated track record of creating empowerment for BIPOC, immigrant and other underserved communities. Her wealth of experience as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Affirmative Action with the Office of the Governor make her uniquely qualified for the appointment.

Sophorn is a collaborator and champion who is always engaging and fostering strong and long-lasting relationships with a variety of sectors ranging from culturally specific community based-organizations, faith-based organizations, advocacy organizations, business organizations, elected officials, and local leaders across Oregon. She strives to center and uplift diverse voices in policy making and implementation and has demonstrated an ability to do that with immense leadership. Sophorn has been instrumental in the inclusion of underserved and under-represented communities in statewide COVID-19 relief efforts and will continue to be instrumental in ensuring that all communities are included in creating a coherent, integrated approach to Oregon's economic prosperity.

For these reasons, we respectfully support the appointment of Sophorn Cheang as Oregon's next Director of Business Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,



Isaura (Isa) Peña
Interim Executive Director, Causa Oregon