2835 46th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

June 2, 2015

Business Record

The Depot at 4th

100 4th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am writing to offer my whole-hearted recommendation for Susan Heathcote for the 2015 Women of Influence Award. Susan exemplifies this award for her extraordinary professional contribution to protecting Iowa’s water quality, her passionate dedication to volunteer service, and the role model provides for young women and men who want to dedicate their lives and talents to protecting our environment

Susan is the Water Program Director for the Iowa Environmental Council, a role she has held since 1996. In this role, Susan provides leadership in analyzing water policy, working closely with both state and national experts, and guiding the Council in making a strong impact on both state and national water quality policy. She is very widely known and respected as one of the nation’s top water quality scientists and experts in the non-profit sector.

Part of Susan’s amazing success and the respect she engenders is her dedication to participating in the community as a volunteer and sharing her passion and expertise widely and selflessly. Just two weeks ago, she led 12 fourth and fifth graders enrolled in the EnviroScouts program at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines on an excursion to a nearby creek to collect and identify tiny water larvae and water insects that help determine the creek’s water quality. For 13 years, Susan has spent a full week of her summer vacation hauling trash out of Iowa’s rivers on Iowa Project AWARE, a week-long river clean-up coordinated by Iowa’s Department of Natural Resources.

Since 2000 as a volunteer, Susan has helped coordinate the Izaak Walton League’s Water Quality Snapshot in Polk County, helping train other volunteers and conducting water quality monitoring on the county’s rivers and streams. In 2008, Susan was instrumental in founding Iowa Rivers Revival, a new non-profit dedicated to protecting and restoring Iowa’s rivers and streams. She has also served on the board of Iowa Rivers Revival since that time.

These examples barely begin to touch on Susan’s volunteer dedication. She gives of her personal time to give speeches, meet with aspiring water quality students, and consult with individuals and groups about how to make a positive impact.

Another unique aspect to Susan’s influence is her dedicated to nurturing young professionals in environmental skills and awareness. At the Iowa Environmental Council, she has fostered many student interns using both work and volunteer time. Several of these interns have gone on to contribute significantly in the Des Moines area and beyond and include:

* A.J. Mumm, Director, Polk County Emergency Management
* Heather Jobst, Land Projects Director, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
* Sid Juwarker, Environmental Project Manager, Terrracon

Susan’s influence through both her professional and volunteer work and as a role model for all those who care about the world around us is profound. I believe that she exemplifies the attributes embodied in the 2015 Women of Influence Award.

Thank you for supporting this award and recognizing women leaders.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Appelgate