 May 27, 2016

To: Women of Influence Review Panel Re: Nomination of Janet Petersen for Business Record’s Women of influence award From: Mike Schreurs, CEO, Strategic America

As a young girl, Janet Petersen learned the value of active involvement in her community and state at her mother’s side. Virginia Petersen served as an advocate for health and education as Director of Family and Community Services for Polk County.

From that early influence, Janet applied it through her own education and career. She received her BA from the University of Northern Iowa, later advancing to achieve her Masters in Integrated Communications from Drake University. Her occupational career included the Iowa Chapter of the American Heart Association and as Senior Public Relations Executive for Strategic America.

In 2001, Janet began her public service as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives in northwest Des Moines. In 2012, she successfully ran for and won a seat as State Senator of District 18. Her legislative interests remained health and education, especially for children as well as constituent service. She has been a Board member of Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (HAWK-I) and a founder and Board member of Healthy Birth Day, now a national organization focused on teaching mothers how to Count the Kicks to help prevent stillbirth. Also in 2008, Ms. Petersen sponsored Iowa's Smoke-free Air Act which was signed into law that year. The law is considered one of the strongest smoke-free air acts in the country, protecting more than 99% of Iowa's workforce from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Currently, Janet serves on key Iowa Senate committees from which important legislation emerges including Commerce (Chair), Ways and Means, Judiciary, Natural Resources and Environment, and Transportation, Infrastructure and Capital Appropriations.

Community involvement is a defining aspect to Janet’s public service including a lengthy list of activities over the years:

Board Member, 21st Century Forum

Board Member, Board of Directors, Small Business Development Centers

Member, American Danish Brotherhood

Volunteer for Big Sister, Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Sunday School teacher, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church

Ex Officio Member, Iowa Values Fund Board of Directors

Communications Chair, Polk County Democrats Central Committee

Board Member, Polk County Health Services

Board Member, Polk County Housing Trust

Board Member, United Way of Central Iowa

Board Member, Des Moines Arts Festival

As wife and mother of three children, Janet has fought for access to quality preschool for Iowa families. For these reasons, I am proud to endorse Janet Petersen as a successful role model for young women, an ethical, outstanding proposed recipient for the prestigious Business Record’s Women of Influence award. Thank you.