

**Libby Jacobs**  
**808 58<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**West Des Moines, IA 50266**

May 25, 2017

Dear Women of Influence Selection Committee

Sheila Tipton epitomizes the meaning of a Woman of Influence. A pioneer in her professional career, Sheila is also a caring and involved community volunteer, a strong and capable leader in all she does, and someone who values family and friends. It is an honor to nominate Sheila for the 2017 Women of Influence award.

My connections with Sheila go back many years, starting with a church personnel committee. She was the at-large member who, due to her background in employment law, guided us in creating and implementing updated personnel policies. A thankless job but one of great importance.

In her professional role, Sheila was one of the first women in Iowa who concentrated her legal practice in the world of energy and utility regulatory law. She is highly regarded as a top notch legal expert in this field and her resume and client lists speaks volumes about her effectiveness and outstanding ability to grasp the complex issues.

Throughout her career, Sheila has been a leader, be it with a law firm's management committee, the Iowa State Bar Association, the Energy Bar Association and Drake Law School. After putting in long hours in her legal practice, Sheila willingly shares her time and talents with numerous volunteer projects. So much so, that in 1997 she was honored with the Governor's Volunteer Award.

Where Sheila truly shines is in her trailblazing and mentoring of other women. Sheila served as one of the first women presidents of the Des Moines Rotary Club, capably leading the 400+ member organization and serving as a role model for others. She also spends considerable time mentoring the next generation of women in the practice of regulatory and utility law. She gladly shares her knowledge and helps women understand the strategic part of this highly complicated field of law. I've watched her gently nudge lawyers new in this practice, encouraging and teaching, and helping them to discover a love for this legal specialty.

Serving on the Iowa Utilities Board with Sheila was absolute joy for me. Her deep knowledge of regulatory issues, combined with her legal smarts, made her one of the best board members in recent history. She dug into the issues, motivated staff to study all options, and treated everyone with kindness and respect. All while helping to move the agency forward and challenging the thinking of "we've always done it that way."

Sheila does not shy away from the difficult issues, whether it's in her legal practice or as a volunteer. She served as a board member for the American Institute of Business (AIB) as it was grappling with the decision to close and offer its assets to the Iowa Board of Regents. Sheila

brought a common sense approach to the board discussions and helped navigate the board through some very intense issues.

I witnessed Sheila accomplish the same while she represented the Iowa Utilities Board on the Iowa Energy Center Advisory Committee. Sheila focused attention on open meetings requirements, proper budget protocol, and tried to bring more transparency to the organization. All this despite numerous roadblocks from some other board members and staff of the Energy Center. She was successful in shining a light on key issues and increased the entity's openness.

Sheila Tipton is a woman who has blazed trails in her career, opened doors for others, and is extremely supportive of women in professional and volunteer roles. She takes very seriously the charge to mentor young women, helping them grow and feel more comfortable in the world of regulated utilities where the vast majority of individuals are male. From her work locally, to her national volunteer activities, Sheila is known for her smarts, her engaging and welcoming personality, and her uncanny ability to dig through the fluff to get at the heart of issues. She is truly a Woman of Influence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Jacobs" followed by a circular stamp containing the letters "hrv".

Libby Jacobs