May 17, 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Des Moines Business Recordc/o Jason Swanson100 4th StreetDes Moines, IA 50309 |  |

RE: Members of the Selection Committee

 Women of Influence

Dear Jason:

I had heard of Liz Garst for decades before I actually met her. “An icon,” they said. “A force to be reckoned with,” they said.  “A visionary.” “Smart as hell.”  “A powerful force for positive change,” they said.

And they were right.

Our paths finally crossed seven or eight years ago when we served together on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Environmental Council. Her comments were always insightful, relevant, and unfailingly focused on the goals of the organization. She earned such credibility among the board and staff members that she guided the organization to an even more effective voice for the health of Iowa.

But Liz is also multidimensional. With her zeal to protect the environment, she brings actual hands-on farming experience and detailed financial analysis of what will and won’t work.  She combines a Harvard graduate degree with hours in the fields to deliver a balanced view available to few. She’s as at home and successful in the board room of banks as the executive position of many of her small businesses as behind the wheel of the Gator making decisions with regard to her extensive farming operations. She has spent countless hours on non-profit boards and enormous sums of money to make Iowa a better place for all of us. Her generosity in the establishment and development of White Rock Conservancy is a gift to all Iowans.

Without trying to make her sound like an E. F. Hutton advertisement, when Liz speaks, people listen. Closely. Her language is blunt; her message is clear. She leads with unfailing integrity.

Liz Garst is an Iowa treasure. I enthusiastically encourage her designation as a Woman of Influence because she is--for the benefit of all of us.

Sincerely,

HOPKINS & HUEBNER, P.C.

Lorraine J. May

Des Moines Office

Direct dial: 515-697-4262

Direct fax: 515-244-8935

Email: lmay@hhlawpc.com

S:\LJM\Misc\Corr\GarstNomination 19-05-17.docx4374