**David C. Caris**

**5401 Woodland Ave. Des Moines, lA 50312**

**515-979-1211**

January 14, 2016

Forty Under Forty

c/o The Business Recotd

The Depot at Fourth

100 4th St., Des Mojnes lA 50309

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to recommend Peter Cownie for the 2016 Forty Under Forty class. Peter has had an amazing number of professional accomplishments for someone as young as he, but l will focus my comments on the one with which I'm most familiar. I was on the board of Junior

Achievement of Central Iowa several years ago when Peter was selected as the executive director of the organization. At the time Peter took on this challenge, Junior Achievement was struggling financially and was near closing its doors due to a large amount of debt and inadequate financial support.

Over the course of just a few years, Peter completely turned this situation around and not only guided the organization out of debt but managed to grow the financial literacy offerings which are vital to our community. Through his leadership, he also restored confidence in the organization and its fine staff Peter Cownie literally saved Junior Achievement of Central Iowa using his leadership and management skills. Central Iowa is indebted to Peter for taking on this challenge during tough times and preserving the financial literacy program offerings to children, which are critical to the success of this region.

Peter has gone on to accomplish even greater things as an Iowa legislator and as head of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, but his accomplishments at Junior Achievement at a very young age will always be one of his great legacies. Again, I urge you to give Peter Cownie

strong consideration for the 2016 Forty Under Forty class. Thanks for your consideration of my

v1ews. Sincerely,

David C. Caris



January 11, 2016

**DALY** HAPPENINGS NC

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

Peter Cownie is one of our community's best and brightest young leaders. Two of my favorites characteristics of Peter:

• Peter understands life balance. He is a compassionate, understanding, supportive and empowering client with a fantastic dry sense of humor. When it's time to wrangle sponsors to make a successful event for his non-profit, he goes full-throttle, no-nonsense and gets

the job completed. When it's time to learn about weekend plans with family and friends, he has an attentive ear.

• You never know what Peter is up to. On the outside, he's smiling but you know he's connecting people and projects to create many successful outcomes for all of us to reap the benefits. Be assured, he's making things happen.

- In just five years at his previous executive director position, he managed the non-profit's finances back in the black. Did he ever acknowledge this feat or did the press pick up

on this story? No. It wasn't important. The only thing that was important: the doors stayed open and the organization runs profitably. Amazing.

- In two years at his current post as Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, his fingerprints are already very apparent on the fairgrounds. As I enjoyed fried cheese curds last August, I could definitively point out major projects that have come to fruition because of the hard work and endless energy of Peter. He's making

one of our state's great attractions even better and more sustainable for generations to enjoy.

While bolstering many of our non-profit organizations and making our communities better, Peter also has our back at the Statehouse. He quietly gets things done wherever he goes. Growing up in Des Moines, he knows the community and is ridiculously well-connected. The apple doesn't fall far! We're blessed to have him.

I believe this 40 U 40 nomination is a slam dunk. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Kendra L. Daly owner

Daly Happenings,Inc.

Selection Panel, 2016 Forty Under Forty

*cfo* The Business Record

The Depot at Fourth

Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Panel:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the nomination and selection of Peter Cownie for the 40 Under 40

Class of 2016. Peter has a lifelong record of leadership, involvement and service to his community. Peter grew up in Des Moines and returned to the Greater Des Moines area after college and living in Washington D.C. for three years.

Peter has quickly moved into higher-level leadership positions in his career. After working at the Statehouse and getting his Masters in Public Administration, Peter became the President of Junior Achievement of Central Iowa. ln this high-level management position, Peter strengthened the Junior Achievement Board, re­ tooled the programs for the school children in central Iowa and oversaw fund raising to put Junior Achievement on solid financial ground and pay off outstanding debt. When Peter left Junior Achievement after serving as its President for five years. he had re-invigorated the Junior Achievement's mission and service in our community.

At the same time, Peter was first elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. He has been re-elected by his District and is currently serving his fourth term. Peter continues to take on more and more leadership positions in the House of Representatives so that he can impact policy and improve the lives of the citizens in his district and the State of Iowa*.*

Peter is currently the Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation. He is once again using his leadership skills and passion for Iowa to make sure the Iowa State Fair and grounds are preserved and improved so it can continue to be a showcase for all that is wonderful about Iowa and be accessible to all Iowans.

Peter has balanced his professional life with a considerable Involvement in his community. He is helping West Des Moines grow its community foundation to enhance the community through public art and other enrichment projects by serving as a Director and past Chair of the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation; he is helping youth have access to the benefits of learning golf by serving as a Director for the First Tee of Greater Des Moines; he puts his commitment to education to good use on the Board of Trustees for Grandview University and the Dowling Catholic High School Foundation Board; and serves on the Meals from the Heartland Board. He is a past member of the West Des Moines Human Services Board. Peter gets thing done!

The 40 Under 40 honor is not just about recognizing current involvement and leadership, but a statement about Peter's potential as a future leader in our community. Peter is a hometown guy with a great interest in the growth and success of our community. Peter has the energy, experience and leadership to be involved in making positive things happen and he js deeply committed to our community.

I hope the 40 Under 40 panel will give Peter Cownie's nomination every consideration and select him as a

2016 40 Under 40 recipient. He will be a great representative of the goals of the 40 Under 40 program and will represent the ideals of involvement, commitment and leadership for many years. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaye Lozier

Community Volunteer