Forty Under 40

Business Record

The Depot at Fourth - 100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Recommendation for Peter Cownie

Business Record – Forty Under 40 – Class of 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have personally known Peter since the day he was born and I've watched him grow to be an upstanding young man and a great contributor to our community. I have often been asked to write letters of recommendation for individuals applying to the Forty Under 40 program. Peter is by far the best candidate I have ever recommended. It gives me great pride to be able to nominate Peter for this year's class.

Peter’s resume for civic leadership and business accomplishment is impressive and extensive. As a graduate of Dowling Catholic High School and the University of Virginia, Peter’s political interests lead him to Washington, DC where he earned the opportunity to serve in the US Dept. of Transportation as assistant to the Secretary of Transportation. After three years in WDC, Peter returned to Iowa to work at the Iowa Statehouse for the Iowa Senate Republican Caucus staff and was a legislative analyst with the State Govt. Committee and the Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee, all while working to earn his Masters Degree in Public Administration/ Public Policy from Drake University where he graduated with honors. Continuing his political career, Peter was elected to his first term in the Iowa House of Representatives in 2008 and has continued to serve, being elected to his fourth term in 2014. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Commerce Committee with involvement in the banking, credit union, insurance, telecommunications, financial services, health-care, and technology industries in Iowa. He also serves on the Agriculture, Govt. Oversight, the Legislative Council and Ways and Means Committees.

From 2008-2013, Peter served as President of Junior Achievement of Central Iowa. He currently volunteers and serves his community as a Director and past Chair of the West Des Moines Community Enrichment Foundation, Meals from the Heartland Board of Directors, the Dowling Catholic High School Foundation Board, Director for the First Tee of Greater Des Moines and the Board of Trustees for Grandview University.

In August of 2013, Peter began serving as Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation. In his current capacity, he leads this non-profit organization to raise funds to help preserve and improve the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds.

Peter’s integrity and sincere desire to contribute to his community are strong attributes, and I truly believe Des Moines and the State of Iowa are fortunate to have him as a leader now and for our future generations. There is no doubt that Peter would be an asset to the Class of 2016. Thank you for your consideration of his candidacy.



Forty Under 40 Committee

DSM Business Record

1004th Stteet

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

As a proponent of young people and at one time involved with this program I believe that candidate, Peter Cownie would be an excellent addition to this years class. I am pleased to give my opinion as to why and I believe having worked with Peter in various

capacities I know that he is truly a leader and part of the future leadership community.

Peter and I have been involved with political, nonprofit and statewide programs. I was part of his team when he ran for Representative from the westem portion of Polk, primarily West Des Moines. He was able to win and has since ben a strong advocate for his area as well as the rest of the state. He is available to present programs, always willing to listen and he works hard at accomplishing important needs for his state.

Taking over the realm of Junior Achievement he created a solid fmancial scenario, which was lacking when I started on the board. He also created a strong board of community leaders to build an even stronger organization within the business community, school systems and community.

As the head of the Foundation for the Iowa State Fair he continues to show his leadership as he raises money and awareness of the areas, which need improvement. As a board member for Keep Iowa Beautiful, we honored the board and State fair Officials for their dedication to our state and he was applauded for his effort. His staff spoke of him as a strong force as did John Putney, former Head of the Foundation and board members of the Fair.

The program, which recognizes our future leaders, some of whom are already exerting their leadership abilities, Peter is among the best. Thank you for taking Peter into consideration. Thank you for continuing the program. Our young people need to be recognized and allowed to become the future.

Loretta J. Sieman LJS Consulting [lorettasiemn@gmail.com](mailto:lorettasiemn@gmail.com)

515 689 4451

January I 0, 2016

Forty Under Forty

Business Record

The Depot at 4th

I 00 4th Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter comes with the highest recommendation to select Peter Cownie for the Des Moines Business Record’s “Forty Under 40” award. I have the pleasure of knowing Peter on both a professional and personal level and find him to be an outstanding leader professionally, as a state legislator and in his civic and volunteer activities. Today's organizations and communities call for leaders capable of working in concert with others in a civil and a collaborative way. Peter is exactly that type of leader.

I have been working with the executive and legislative branches of government in Iowa for the past 18 years. As an elected official, Peter is one that stands out as a model for others, He is seen as a leader in his caucus, is the Chairman of critical committees that impact Iowa and always thinks of his constituents first. I have had multiple opportunities to work with Peter on key legislative initiatives that are not only positive for his constituents but the entire state. His is not afraid to take on big initiatives like expanding broadband throughout Iowa, strengthening our education system and ensuring a positive regulatory environment for the insurance and financial services industry. Peter is a pro-active strategic thinker that brings new ideas, energy and a strong work ethic to his position as a legislator.

Not only is Peter's work at the state level important but he is an active leader in the community and is not afraid to roll-up his sleeves to solve problems. Through his volunteer activities, he has been able to ensure that our most vulnerable receive meals and at risk youth obtain education on life skills and leadership. He is also a volunteer with education institutions as well as other foundations. Peter does all of his work as a legislator ·and volunteer quietly and with humility while maintaining a full-time job and juggling a young family.

It is difficult for a younger individual to be a state legislator due to many constraints including a young family. We are very fortunate that Peter continues to make this commitment to his constituents and our state. I understand that the "Forty under 40" designation is competitive and each year honors Des Moines' best and brightest. It is my firm belief that Peter Cownie is not just the best and brightest for· Des Moines, but for Iowa and I highly recommend him for this years "Forty under 40'' class.

Sincerely,

Georgia G. Van Gundy

Director, Government and Community Relations

The Principal Financial Group

Selection Panel

Forty Under Forty

c/o The Business Record

100 4th Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Committee,

Herein, I provide my highest recommendation for the selection of Peter Cownie as a member of the next Forty Under Forty class.

Peter has demonstrated a high level of leadership through his various endeavors and his desire to make his community and state a great place to live. His demeanor and vision have enabled him to be recognized by business, philanthropic, and political interests as a real up-and-coming leader in Iowa. His low-key, humble, and common sense approach to challenges and opportunities have garnered him the respect of many.

In a young career, Peter already has achieved great success through guiding the Junior Achievement organization to sound footing, through being identified as a go-to member of the Iowa House of Representatives by his peers, and by leading the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation to new heights and accomplishments.

Peter Cownie’s proven leadership, values, and commitment are a great asset to Des Moines and Iowa. It is my sincere hope that he will be selected for this very prestigious and deserving honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

John Putney, Executive Director (retired)

Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation