

January 7, 2014

Mr. Jason Swanson
Des Moines Business Record
Business Publications Corporation Inc.
100 Fourth St.
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Mr. Swanson:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate and endorse Timothy J. Whipple for the Des Moines Business Record's 2014 class of 40 under 40.

Tim currently serves as the General Counsel of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). His responsibilities here at IEDA include serving as the agency's lobbyist, overseeing the administration of multiple tax credit programs, managing the compliance and contracting process, and overseeing the adoption of our administrative rules.

Although that's a long list, it really is just the tip of the iceberg when understanding Tim's role in our organization. He is an expert problem-solver, and one I rely on daily to provide guidance and advice as the Authority works to create wealth for Iowans. His counsel is invaluable.


I first met Tim when he was working as legal counsel for the Iowa Legislature in 2010 after I was appointed director of what is now the Iowa Economic Development Authority. We worked together to craft the legislation that created the Governor's public/private partnership and restructured the delivery mechanism for economic development at the state level. His knowledge of the background and legal requirements of Iowa's tax and economic development programs was deep, and I knew that would be critical to reaching Governor Branstad's goal of creating 200,000 new jobs in Iowa. I was pleased that he agreed to join the IEDA team.

My decision to bring Tim on board has paid off from day one. In 2012, he was instrumental in expanding the High Quality Jobs program to replace the repealed Grow Iowa Values Fund, in redesigning the Regional Sports Authority District program rules, and in passing important new tax incentives to increase the formation of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs).

Again, in 2013, he was instrumental in a number of legislative efforts benefitting Iowa's business and economic development community, including increasing the amount of business development tax credits IEDA can award under Iowa law to \$170 million, extending the Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credit program for Iowa's border communities, increasing the funding available for business development assistance under the High Quality Jobs program, securing grant funds for the Iowa Innovation Corporation's efforts to land an advanced manufacturing hub in Iowa, improving the tax credits for Innovation Funds, and the passage of the Iowa Reinvestment Act which will deploy \$100 million in state revenues to help build transformative community development projects all across Iowa.

Iowa is better off thanks to Tim's passion for building economic development programs that really work. I am proud to call him not only my colleague, but my friend. He is truly worthy of consideration for the 2014 class of 40 under 40.

Sincerely,



Debi V. Durham, Director