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January 5, 2018

Re: Support for the nomination of Kyle Oppenhuizen for the 2017 Class of Forty Under 40

Dear Forty Under 40 Judges:

It is a humbling experience to be named a Forty Under 40 honoree. As you can surely relate, these feelings are renewed each year as a new class is announced and you again feel yourself surrounded by talented and dedicated professionals doing remarkable work for the Greater Des Moines region.

Knowing Kyle Oppenhuizen, understanding the depth of his talent, witnessing his values and character, seeing his commitment to the betterment of the region – I can think of very few people who would better honor the Forty Under 40 alumni by being named to the Class of 2017.

Please accept this, my heartfelt endorsement of Kyle in his nomination. You've seen his resume and his impressive list of accomplishments. Let me also say that, while he has said he looks up to me as a mentor, I have looked at him with equal admiration. We first met when he was reporter for the *Des Moines Business Record* and I was the spokesman for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART). In that time and in the years since, I have come to know his many qualities: patience, fortitude, foresight, strategic thinking, humbleness, kindness, honesty, integrity, humility. Also, he's a damn fine writer.

These attributes will carry him far as an up-and-coming leader in Greater Des Moines. If he is named to the Forty Under 40 Class of 2017, we will someday look back at the list of names and say, yes, of course Kyle would have been an honoree. I see big things in store for Kyle, and I hope you will strongly consider honoring him this year.

Sincerely,

Gunnar Olson

Communications Manager, Des Moines Area MPO  
Business Record Forty Under 40, Class of 2015

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