

January 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Kristin Aschenbrenner as a member of the 2018 40 under 40 class.

In 2014, I hired Kristin as The Nature Conservancy's first ever full-time Iowa government relations employee. In 3.5 years, she has built our Iowa state and federal policy program and become a conservation policy leader in Iowa and nationally within The Nature Conservancy. Kristin is deeply committed to conserving Iowa's land, water and soil and her work on the Federal Farm Bill and with the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Coalition can attest to this.

In this politically charged environment, working on issues such as water quality, climate change and soil conservation is no easy task. Kristin possesses a unique ability to work with diverse groups of stakeholders and both political parties. She goes out of her way to ask questions, engage and listen to others to fully understand their needs and find common ground that results in win-win policy solutions.

Kristin is a national leader on conservation agriculture policy, serving on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Government Relations Cabinet and leading our work on the Conservation Reserve Program in the Farm Bill. This requires working closely with farm commodity groups and internal Nature Conservancy state programs. In the Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Coalition, Kristin is the glue that holds everything together--from managing contractors to meeting with legislators and working with volunteers. Her tenacity, passion and willingness to persevere are critical to the success of funding Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust fund.

After living outside of Iowa for a number of years, Kristin moved back to Iowa because of her authentically deep passion for the land and the people. I can think of no other person more dedicated to conserving Iowa's quality of life, land and water for future generations than Kristin. I strongly recommend her inclusion in the 2018 40 under 40 class.

Sincerely,



Jan Glendening
Iowa State Director, The Nature Conservancy
Co-Chair, Iowa's Water and Land Legacy
40 Under 40 Class of 2016