



The Strawn Company

Matthew N. Strawn

January 12, 2018

Forty Under 40 Committee
Des Moines Business Record
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Kristin Aschenbrenner

Dear Committee members:

It is a personal and professional privilege to recommend Kristin Aschenbrenner for inclusion into the Business Record's 2018 Class of Forty under 40.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Kristin in her work for the Nature Conservancy in Iowa, where her public policy advocacy is devoted toward making Iowa a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Engaging in the public policy battles of the day is not for the faint of heart in these charged times, but you wouldn't know it by watching Kristin employ her craft. Whether talking soil conservation practices out in the field with a Congressman or walking a state legislator through the fine points of water quality legislation at the Capitol, Kristin is polished, poised and principled.

It's her principled and passionate belief that Iowans must preserve our precious resources for future generations that make Kristin a trusted source for public officials and a credible advocate for her cause. And it is her passion, her passion for Iowa, our people and our land, that I have seen unite leaders across the political spectrum.

Bringing people together to find common cause in improving our community. That has been a hallmark of our state. The Iowa Way, if you will. That's the kind of leadership Kristin provides.

One of America's original conservationists, President Theodore Roosevelt famous said, in part, "it is not the critic who counts ... [but] the credit belongs to the man in the arena, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, [and] who spends himself in worthy cause."

I can think of no better description of Kristin. She is in the arena. She is spending herself in worthy cause. She is making a difference for our families and our communities. Your Class of 2018 would be stronger with her inclusion.

Warm regards,

Matthew N. Strawn
President
The Strawn Company