Dear Business Record “Forty Under 40” Selection Committee:

It is an absolute pleasure to draft this letter in support of Hilary Warner as a candidate for the Des Moines Business Record’s 16th annual “Forty Under 40” awards. As President of the Mittera Group, an organization that employs 750, I have worked with and mentored many young professionals throughout my career. During Hilary’s four short months as the youngest corporate executive at our company, she has displayed the same impeccable integrity, industry knowledge, leadership and initiative as her corporate colleagues—most of whom I’ve worked with for more than a decade.

Her community involvement and professional accomplishments exemplify what it means to be a young professional in this city. It is a privilege to know Hilary let alone have her on my team. She is, without a doubt, beyond deserving of this recognition.

When Hilary joined the Mittera Group as our director of finance this past year, she came with high praise from her predecessor, someone I’ve done business with for many years. We brought her on board during the acquisition of a $35 million dollar company, and she did not miss a beat. Hilary’s natural inclination to dive in without hesitation and drive positive change is infectious—empowering those around her to follow suit.

Her talents and tenacity have been a true asset to this company. She has impressed me, and the team of 24 that she leads, daily with her dedication to creating efficiencies for our business and processes.

Hilary truly exemplifies the ideal combination of professionalism and character.

She cares deeply about doing meaningful work both in and outside of the office. Her board engagement on the I Have A Dream Foundation of Des Moines is a testament to that. By investing her time and resources, Hilary has helped pave a new path for students stuck in a pattern of poverty—one that leads to a promising future.

As you consider applicants for this honor, I urge you to equally consider Des Moines’s group of up and coming young professionals who will seek to mold themselves into candidates for coming years. Hilary Warner is the definition of an individual who leads by example.

Sincerely,

Jon Troen