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October 8, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St NE Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

The Public Records Advisory Council met on October 7, 2020, the first time they have convened since Public Record Advocate nominee Becky Chiao resigned before confirmation. During this meeting, a majority of the council members voted to ask that I write you a letter respectfully requesting that you select Oregon's next Public Records Advocate from the remaining two candidates on the slate the Council forwarded to you.

The council feels that they completed their statutory requirement within ORS 192.461(2) by forwarding three names for your consideration. Because former candidate, Becky Chiao, was never confirmed by the Senate as Advocate and withdrew herself for consideration last week, the council believes that they are able to request that an alternate candidate be selected from the remaining two names.

A majority of the council further asked me to share with you that they endorse Todd Albert as the next permanent Advocate. During the recruitment process, he was the first choice of the vast majority of Council members participating in reviewing candidates, as documents from the interview process reflect.

Calling in to the meeting, Former Advocate Ginger McCall voiced her support for Todd's candidacy. "Todd has worked incredibly hard in this role, has shown great dedication, and I think we should reward that."

A member of the public, Scott Forrester, also called in to the meeting and asked that your office appoint Todd Albert, as Mr. Forrester had experienced excellent public records advice and assistance over the past few months provided by Mr. Albert.

The Public Records Advisory Council hopes for a swift outcome to select the next Advocate, as it has been more than a year since Ginger McCall resigned and the PRAC feels that there remains a great deal of important work yet to be done with regard to improving access to public records in Oregon. It is the hope of the majority of the PRAC that a new Advocate nominee can be considered for Senate confirmation this December or as soon as is reasonable thereafter.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the PRAC's request.
Sincerely,

Stephanie Clark
Chair, Public Records Advisory Council and State Archivist