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Kwik Lok chair retires, Kimberly Paxton-Hagner named successor

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Kimberly Paxton-Hagner, co-owner of Kwik Lok Corp. based in Yakima, WA, has been elected to the role of board chair for the company. Kwik Lok is a global company that was founded by Paxton-Hagner's grandfather, Floyd Paxton, and has been run by her family for three generations. Paxton-Hagner assumed the role as chairperson at the company's recent board meeting on April 1.

Paxton-Hagner succeeds John Rothenbueler as chairperson upon his retirement. Rothenbueler guided the company through the transition from the second to the third generation of ownership. Kwik Lok is now owned by sisters Kimberly Paxton-Hagner, Melissa Steiner and Stephanie Jackson.

“When our father died, John helped our family and our employees to navigate the transition of the company. His leadership and professional skill made it possible for us to maintain the day-to-day operations during a very tumultuous and emotional time and has positioned the company for future success. My sisters and I are grateful to John and wish him the best as he begins his well-earned retirement,” said Jackson.

Paxton-Hagner steps into the chairperson’s role as the company looks forward to new and exciting challenges in the packaging industry. A key focus is Kwik Lok’s committed to sustainability. Kwik Lok has been a leader in innovating products that help customers lower greenhouse gas emissions and use less petroleum-based plastics while still maintaining the packaging’s safety and freshness. Together with her co-owner sisters, Paxton-Hagner also embraces the concept of doing well by doing good. The company is integrating this concept throughout their locations worldwide. This corporate social responsibility work is organized under four areas and includes the following:

- Unlocking Opportunity: From employee engagement to education
- Improving Well-Being: Physical health, mental health and safety
- Protecting Resources: People, places and the planet
- Fostering Innovation: New products and manufacturing innovation

“My sisters and I are proud of the progress our company has made and we are optimistic about the opportunities that lay ahead. I am thrilled and honored to work with my sisters as we continue the work of our grandfather and father. We feel privileged to work with some of the finest people in the world,” said Paxton-Hagner.

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