

January 3, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senator, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Senator Jeff Sessions for Attorney General of the United States

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Leahy, and Senator Feinstein:

We, the signatories below, are all former United States Attorneys - serving under Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama - who write to support the confirmation of Senator Jeff Sessions as Attorney General of the United States.

As former U.S. Attorneys, we are in a unique position to evaluate the qualifications of Senator Sessions to serve as our nation's Attorney General. United States Attorneys are the top-ranking federal law-enforcement officials of their jurisdictions, tasked with setting enforcement priorities, building trust with the communities they serve, and protecting the public while respecting federalism, the separation of powers, and the individual rights enshrined in the Constitution. It is not an easy job, but it is one in which Senator Sessions excelled.

Senator Sessions' record reflects his priorities clearly, and none of his work as U.S. Attorney was more impactful than his sustained effort to eliminate segregation in rural Alabama and break the back of the Alabama Klan. In addition to bringing and supporting civil rights cases to fight against voter suppression and school segregation, Senator Sessions supported the investigation into the brutal murder of an African American teenager, Michael Donald. His efforts, in coordination with state authorities, ensured that the perpetrator - the son of the Alabama Klan's leader - received a capital sentence. Sessions' office also prosecuted an accomplice in that case, who pled guilty and received a life sentence, the maximum penalty available in federal court at the time. These successful prosecutions helped the victim's mother win a \$7 million lawsuit against the Klan, effectively crippling it as a political organization within Alabama.

Senator Sessions served for a remarkable twelve years as U.S. Attorney. His lengthy tenure alone is impressive given the burdens of the job, which we well know. Senator Sessions' conspicuous service to the law and all citizens has continued as a United States Senator. In his work as a leader on the Senate Judiciary Committee, he has espoused a consistent understanding of the Constitution, a commitment to the rule of law, and an unwavering respect for the mission of the Department of Justice.

During his 41 years of public service, Senator Sessions has proved to be a leader of strong principles and firm beliefs. His support for the 25-year extension of the Civil Rights Act in 2006

The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 2 of 10

is evidence of this. He also has proved to be a leader who appreciates positions that differ from his own and who learns from the scrutiny that comes with public life. His openness to different thinking and other worldviews is evidenced by the recent statements in support of his nomination from colleagues across the political spectrum and his support for Eric Holder's nomination as Attorney General in 2009.

As former U.S. Attorneys, we worked with and for many Attorneys General, each different, each with his or her own unique strengths. We have no doubt that Senator Sessions can do the job well, bringing to this critically important office his own unique and extraordinary strengths of courage, humility, experience, and an inviolable promise to treat all people equally under the law.

We strongly urge you to support his confirmation.

Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
United States Attorney, Southern District of Florida
2005-2009

Honorable A. Brian Albritton
United States Attorney, Middle District of Florida
2008-2010

Honorable Tom Ashcraft
United States Attorney, Western District of North
Carolina
1987-1993

Honorable John Malcolm Bales
United States Attorney, Eastern District of Texas
2009-2016

Honorable Robert Balfe
United States Attorney, Western District of Arkansas
2004-2009

Honorable Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr.
United States Attorney, Middle District of Louisiana
1981-1986

Honorable David B. Barlow
United States Attorney, District of Utah
2011-2014

Honorable Michael A. Battle
United States Attorney, Western District of New York
2005-2007

Honorable Steven Michael Biskupic
United States Attorney, Eastern District of Wisconsin
2002-2009

Honorable John L. Brownlee
United States Attorney, Western District of Virginia
2001-2008

The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 3 of 10

Honorable Mary Beth Buchanan
United States Attorney, Western District of Pennsylvania
2001-2009

Honorable Jose A. Canales
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1977-1980

Honorable Leura Garrett Canary
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2001-2011

Honorable Michael W. Carey
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1987-1993

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1978-1982

Honorable John E. Clark
United States Attorney, Western District of Texas
1975-1977

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Honorable Colm F. Connolly
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Honorable D. Michael Crites
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Honorable Bud Cummins
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Honorable Margaret Person Currin
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Honorable E. Bart Daniel
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1989-1992

Honorable Deborah J. Daniels
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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 4 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 5 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 6 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 7 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 8 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 9 of 10

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The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
January 3, 2017
Page 10 of 10

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