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January 3, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
244 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Minority Member
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
244 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

I am writing to express my strong support for John Carlin's nomination to become Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for National Security.

I held the same position during 2008-2009, and know well the challenges that it entails. I am confident that John will meet those challenges and provide excellent leadership to the National Security Division (NSD).

John's talents and experience are an ideal combination for the position for which he is nominated. I worked with John when I served in the NSD and he was the Chief of Staff for FBI Director Robert Mueller. At NSD we routinely called upon John for assistance in resolving difficult national security issues involving the FBI. John always came through. He was smart, nimble, low-key and, as a result of those traits, very effective. He solved problems quickly and in a manner that was respectful of our legal and ethical obligations as attorneys for the government.

As the Director's Chief of Staff, John had the opportunity to work closely with Director Mueller. During this time, John received an invaluable daily lesson in leadership and public service from the Director, and I am confident that John will continue to draw upon Director Mueller's example at NSD. Moreover, given the close working relationship between NSD and the FBI on national security matters, John's deep understanding of the FBI, including its strengths and weaknesses, will be of great advantage in working through issues.

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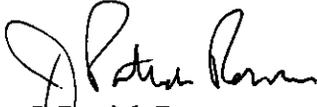
As you know, one element of the AAG's job is reviewing and approving (or declining) proposed national security prosecutions. John's distinguished career at the Department of Justice (DOJ) includes years of investigating and trying cases in the U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. Through his work there, John learned important practical lessons that will serve him well as he assesses investigative strategies and the viability of cases involving terrorism, espionage and export controls.

In the course of his time at DOJ, John has also acquired invaluable knowledge and experience in electronic surveillance. Both at the FBI and at DOJ, he has been heavily involved in the use of electronic surveillance as a criminal investigative tool and as an intelligence-gathering tool. His understanding of the legal and privacy issues will be important as the three branches of government wrestle with the questions recently raised about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the activities of the National Security Agency.

Finally, John has a longstanding interest in cybersecurity, an area in which the government continues to struggle over the most effective set of responses. He has worked on cybersecurity matters for many years, as a DOJ prosecutor, an FBI official and during his time at NSD. Indeed, he recently directed the launch and implementation of a national review to determine how DOJ can most effectively support U.S. efforts to combat cyber threats to national security. John will be a valuable voice in the ongoing discussion over the proper mix of offensive and defensive weapons and the role of our law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

From my discussions with him, I know that John has great affection for the men and women of the National Security Division, and deep respect for the work they do. He has all the tools and experience to lead them with distinction. I urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,



J. Patrick Rowan