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October 26, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin Chairman Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley Ranking Member Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of David H. Urias

District Judge, District of New Mexico

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to encourage the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on the nomination of David H. Urias to serve as United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, where I have practiced law for more than 35 years. It has been my pleasure since at least 2008 to know and work with Mr. Urias on a variety of matters, including cases where we represent clients with common interests and cases where our clients have been opposed to one another. Mr. Urias enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a leading trial lawyer in this state and in all cases that I have worked with and against him, I have found him to be hard working, highly intelligent, and a person of integrity.

Mr. Urias and I have often represented clients with opposing political interests: I am a lifelong Republican who has regularly represented Republican officeholders and candidates for more than 30 years and he is a lifelong Democrat who has regularly represented clients and organizations on a different part of the political spectrum. Despite the differences in our political backgrounds, I am pleased to say that I and many of my Republican colleagues know that Mr. Urias would fully enforce the rule of law and apply it impartially.

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In New Mexico, we are fortunate to have many examples of United States District Judges who, while in private practice, engaged fully and enthusiastically in the public discourse on political and social issues and who yet, once appointed to the Court, set about applying themselves strictly to the impartial administration of justice. I have no doubt that Mr. Urias would follow their example and embrace a role of judging cases solely on their facts and the law.

I am therefore pleased to join many other New Mexicans in endorsing Mr. Urias for the position of District Judge and look forward to his serving New Mexico as a member of our federal judiciary.

Respectfully yours,

Charles R. Peifer