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March 5, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to express my strong support for John C. Cruden's nomination to become Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Cruden has had a distinguished professional career both within and outside the Department of Justice, having served as a career Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division. Prior to Mr. Cruden distinguished himself during his military career, setting himself apart as a leader of exceptional integrity, with the highest personal characteristics.

I serve as president of the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP), whose organizational members include state, local and special focus bars from 53 states and territories and individual members include present and past bar leaders from these jurisdictions. I first met Mr. Cruden in his role as a past President of the District of Columbia Bar, the second largest bar in the nation, where he served as President from 2005 to 2006.

During our initial association, Mr. Cruden served as a member of the Executive Council (Board) of NCBP, where his active participation and wise leadership was greatly valued. Mr. Cruden chaired the NCBP Diversity Committee during his time on the Executive Council. While I have not had the privilege of working with or opposing Mr. Cruden in his role as an

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Environmental Counsel, he has earned my trust, confidence, respect and affection. I have observed him to be a principled leader, a consensus-builder, a strategic thinker, and a gentleman in the best sense of that word.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge the Senate to confirm Mr. Cruden to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division. If I may be of further assistance or respond to any questions directly, please call me.

Very truly yours,



Carl D. Smallwood

CDS/bkw