

February 13, 2018

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Ryan Bounds to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

Each of us who has signed this letter is a political liberal. We participate in political campaigns; raise money for candidates; and volunteer for organizations that seek to protect a woman's right to choose, fight racism and anti-Semitism, and conserve our natural heritage. Some have interned for a Democratic president; others have worked in Salem. And each of us has known Ryan Bounds for years as a colleague and, more important, as a friend.

Alliance for Justice recently issued a report critical of Mr. Bounds' nomination to sit on the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. It asserts that Mr. Bounds cannot fairly apply the law and dispense even-handed justice, and cites, among other things, a number of undergraduate op-ed pieces written by Mr. Bounds over twenty years ago. We disagree with the report's characterization of Mr. Bounds.

There is no question that Mr. Bounds' college writings are profoundly misguided in substance and in tone. But one of the touchstones of a liberal education is opening up the student's mind to new thoughts. Plainly that experience left its mark on Mr. Bounds -- as did meeting people from different backgrounds and of different beliefs, and realizing that he did not have a monopoly on the truth. The Ryan Bounds that we know is not the blinkered college student who wrote those articles. He's a kind, thoughtful, and fair man who treats individuals with dignity, equality, and respect.

Of course Mr. Bounds is a political conservative; he would not have been nominated by a Republican president if he were not. But our experiences with him prove to us that he is committed to equality and justice for all, not only the few. His intellect is tempered by a judgment matured by education and experience. And he is a profoundly decent human being.

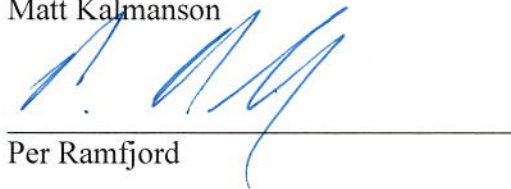
Should the Senate confirm him, he will make a fine Ninth Circuit judge of whom Oregon can be proud.



Saskia de Boer


Beverly Pearman


Jeremy Sacks


Matt Kalmanson


Per Ramfjord


Darian Stanford