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January 6, 2017

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chuck and Dianne,

First, let me wish you both a Happy New Year and a productive First Session of the 115th Congress.

I am writing in regards to the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States which is now before your Committee.

Jeff and I served together in the U.S. Senate for sixteen years. A review of our voting records will show that he and I disagreed on many issues, but that did not stop us from working together when we agreed, nor did it get in the way of us becoming personal friends.

One of the most important collaborations, Jeff and I had was on the Heroes Act (Public Law No. 109-13) which expanded death benefits for the families of fallen combat personnel from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and increased the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

In the many conversations and interactions we had over the years, I always found Jeff to be an honorable and trustworthy person, a smart and good lawyer, and a thoughtful and open minded listener.

Do I agree with everything he has ever said or done? Of course not. But I don't agree with everything anyone I know has ever said or done, including myself. Most people change during their lives, learning from experience, and therefore deserve to be judged on the totality of their life's work, with greater weight given to more recent behavior.

During my twenty-four years in the Senate, when I had to decide whether to advise and consent to a controversial Presidential nomination, I tried to remember that the question was not whether I would nominate that person, because that is the President's singular right and responsibility. The question is whether I could conclude that the nominee would carry out the responsibilities of the particular office for which he was nominated at that particular time. Perhaps, Jeff applied similar standards when in 2009 he decided to vote to confirm President Obama's nomination of Eric Holder to be Attorney General.

Senator Jeff Sessions has now been nominated by President-elect Trump to be our next Attorney General. Based on my personal knowledge of the nominee, I believe that he will be a principled, fair, and capable Attorney General. If I were in the Senate today, I would vote "aye" on his nomination.

With every good, personal wish.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
Senior Counsel
United States Senator, Retired

THANKS