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October 17, 2014

Via Telefax and Regular US Mail

(202) 224-3479

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Judicial Nomination of Stephen Bough, United States District Court, Western
District of Missouri

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing to you as a result of a recent media report questioning the judicial fitness of Stephen Bough. As I am sure you are aware, opponents of Mr. Bough's nomination have pointed to various blog posts made by Mr. Bough before he was nominated to the bench and have questioned whether he can exercise appropriate judicial temperament and act impartially as a U.S. District Court Judge. I think it is extremely important to note that these blog posts were made before Mr. Bough was nominated to the bench and all posts were made in a political context, not a judicial context.

By way of background, I have been practicing as a civil defense attorney in Missouri for nearly 25 years. I represent insurance companies and self-insured corporations in litigated matters. Steve Bough has been opposing counsel to me and other members of my firm on numerous cases over the years. Additionally, I have been active in Republic Party politics in Missouri for over 30 years. I have worked on the campaigns of Senators Ashcroft and Bond, Congressmen Mel Hancock and Roy Blunt as well as numerous state level Republican campaigns. Also, in 1987, I was in charge of Jack Kemp's presidential campaign in southwest Missouri. I am unabashed, staunch conservative.

Despite the fact that I am a civil defense lawyer and a staunch conservative, I wholeheartedly support Stephen Bough's nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Mr. Bough is an accomplished trial attorney. He understands the intricacies of civil litigation. His professionalism and ethics are above reproach. Mr. Bough understands the need for judicial impartiality and evenhandedness. I have no reservations whatsoever in asking you to fully support Mr. Bough's nomination.

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If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John L. Mullen", with a large, stylized circular flourish underneath the name.

JOHN L. MULLEN
jmullen@fsmlawfirm.com