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April 27, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, I write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Michael C. Green for the position of United States District Court Judge for the Western District of New York.

By way of background, DAASNY was formed in 1909 as a bipartisan organization to promote sound law enforcement policies in the State of New York. It consists of the 62 elected district attorneys in the entire state, many of their assistants, and the state Attorney General. About 40 of our member offices are located in rural counties, and have fewer than 10 lawyers to work with the police to prosecute all crimes within their jurisdictions.

The members of DAASNY, Republicans and Democrats, have come to know Mr. Green well since his election as District Attorney of Monroe County in 2003. In that capacity, he has tirelessly upheld the ideals of strong law enforcement and has worked with DAASNY on numerous projects that are important to its law enforcement mission. Most notably, Mr. Green served as the only prosecutor on New York's Sentencing Reform Commission and advocated tirelessly on behalf of the Association for fair but tough drug laws that would hold accountable and punish the drug dealers who are ruining our communities and increase treatment options for non-violent drug addicts. In the face of stiff opposition from a majority of the commission members, District Attorney Green consistently advocated for laws that would continue to allow prosecutors to have a meaningful role in ensuring that convicted drug dealers are appropriately punished.

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Our Association's respect for District Attorney Green and his work is best demonstrated by the fact that he was elected Vice President of the Association by his fellow District Attorneys, and was scheduled to take over as President of the Association this July. This has been delayed a year because of his pending nomination.

In sum, we have very much appreciated Mr. Green's commitment to justice and the battle to keep our communities safe. While we would hate to lose him as a member of our association, we are confident that he would bring the same work ethic and commitment to the fair administration of justice as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any further information that would assist with this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Champagne", written in a cursive style.

Derek Champagne
President