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May 6, 2013

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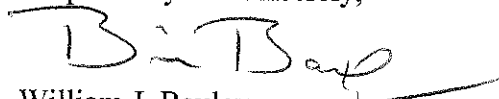
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Please accept this as my highest and best recommendation of Judge Bill Pryor to serve on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. I have known Judge Pryor even before he succeeded me, by several terms, as Attorney General of Alabama, and have followed his career as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, having supported his nomination without reservation. Judge Pryor's service on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals has been exemplary. The fact that I am a Democrat, and that Judge Pryor was a Republican, was not daunting in the least when I enthusiastically supported his appointment to the Eleventh Circuit. I knew him well and knew that his career there would be exactly as it has been – impeccably fair, above board, above politics, above reproach, above ideology, and above all that is expected of a United States Circuit Judge.

Not only is Judge Pryor exceedingly bright and exceedingly attuned to every nuance and consideration that can and should be taken into consideration in sentencing decisions, he is also fortunate to have served as Attorney General of Alabama at a time when state habitual offender laws fomented an inflexibility in sentencing in our state court system. This resulted in myriad unforeseen consequences for our judicial system, our corrections system, and our state budgets. He has served as a United States Circuit Judge throughout the evolution of federal sentencing guidelines from mandatory to discretionary, and has been exposed for many years as a hard working United States Circuit Judge to every extreme of sentencing imaginable, and has struck a fair and equitable chord within every Eleventh Circuit panel upon which he has served. Application of wisdom of this nature to the complex variety of issues that must be addressed by the U.S. Sentencing Commission in the discharge of its duty to the United States is critical to its mission. There is no better choice to accomplish this goal than Judge Bill Pryor.

Respectfully and sincerely,


William J. Baxley

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Respectfully and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Baxley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William J. Baxley