November 3, 2026

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

re: Nomination of Phillip ("Phil") Aubart to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

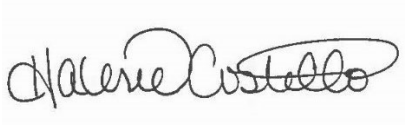
We are Assistant Federal Public Defenders in the Eastern District of North Carolina who have worked with Philip "Phil" Aubart in his role as Assistant United States Attorney in the same district. Collectively, we have tried cases against Phil and handled many matters in which we were on opposing sides. Based on our experiences with him over the past four years, we write to recommend his confirmation as a United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

His academic and intellectual qualifications for the role are unequivocal. These are reflected in his performance as a prosecutor, both in the courtroom and in written work product. Phil also has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to federal public service. Prior to being an Assistant United States Attorney, he served in the military and as a law clerk for the Honorable Terrence W. Boyle. His entire legal career has been in public service—his commitment to the United States is unquestionable.

As an adversary, Phil has proven himself to be a well-prepared and able, focusing on the important issues without being distracted by less weighty aspects of the case. In dealings with opposing counsel, even when vigorously disagreeing with defense arguments, he is a thoughtful listener who respects different points of view. He does not overstate the strength of his case and exercises discretion with a sense of its human consequences. These are qualities that will serve him well on the federal bench.

His professional record reveals his intellect, work ethic, and dedication to service. We are confident that Phil's legal skill and level head will make him an asset to the bench in the Middle District of North Carolina.

Respectfully,



Halerie Costello



Christopher J. Locascio



Jennifer Dominguez



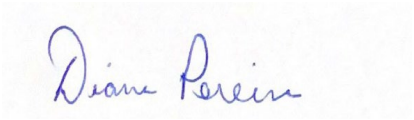
Katherine Shea Dowling



David Wicclair



Lauren Harrell Brennan



Diana Pereira



Jean-Paul E. Jacquet-Freese



James Saunders



Robert Parrott



Leza Lee Driscoll