Office of the Sheriff

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November 5, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Philip L. Aubart to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

As Sheriff of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Philip L. Aubart to serve as District Court Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. Mr. Aubart is exceptionally qualified to serve as a United States District Court Judge and possesses the legal insight, experience, and judgment that this office requires. His career in public service also demonstrates his commitment to fairness and the Constitution.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. Aubart worked closely with federal, state and local law enforcement to uphold the law and protect the vulnerable. He prosecuted hundreds of wide-ranging cases, consistently demonstrating zealous advocacy and a command of the courtroom. Through this work, he has earned the respect of his colleges, judges, and state and federal law enforcement leaders. He was swiftly elevated to his current role as First Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina where he oversees the office's day-to-day operations. Mr. Aubart has earned a reputation for fairness, professionalism and sound judgment.

Mr. Aubart also serves as a Major in the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps which reflects his longstanding commitment to serving this country. His military service further demonstrates the strong character and discipline that will serve him well on the federal bench.

I believe Mr. Aubart would be an outstanding addition to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. His commitment to serving others, respecting the rights of all individuals, and maintaining public confidence in our justice system makes him deserving of this consideration. I respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of Philip L. Aubart for appointment to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Respectfully,

Cleveland Atkinson, Jr.
Sheriff of Edgecombe County