November 4, 2026

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

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 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,

We write as members[1] of the private federal defense bar to express our support for the nomination of Philip L. Aubart to serve as United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. We have worked with him in his role as an Assistant United States Attorney and know him to be an exemplary candidate.

Mr. Aubart's impressive background uniquely qualifies him to serve on the bench with distinction. He graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College and later from Duke Law School. Mr. Aubart knows the federal system and the courtroom well. He served as a Judicial Clerk for United States District Judge Terrence W. Boyle in the Eastern District of North Carolina, following graduation from Duke. He then served our country in the United States Army for nearly eight years including time as both a prosecutor and defense counsel. That experience solidified Mr. Aubart's commitment to fairness and impartiality, traits which will guide him on the bench. Mr. Aubart later returned to the Eastern District of North Carolina and served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the criminal division. He currently serves as the First Assistant United States Attorney in that same district. In addition, he also serves as a Major in the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps.

Mr. Aubart is a talented attorney, a vigorous advocate, and a respectful professional. As a trial attorney, he is consistently prepared, fair-minded, and ethical, and he is well respected among his colleagues, court staff, judges, and members of the bar. He listens. His even-tempered treatment of cases and opposing counsel are an example to us all. He is steadfast and fierce while equally understanding that the justice system depends on integrity, candor, and respect for the rule of law. We believe that he will faithfully apply

[1] Christian Dysart, Joe Zeszotarski, Jorgelina Arenada, Marshall Ellis, Joe Houchin, Gabe Diaz, Michael Fitzpatrick, Dan Bubar, John Parker, Mitch Styers, Elisa Salmon, Daniel Donahue, Jim Ayers, Boyd Sturges, Danny Glover, H.P. Williams, Joe Bell, Mike Dowling, Chad Rhoades, Myron Hill, Tom Wilson, Sebastian Kielmanovich

the law regardless of outcome. Based on our experiences with Mr. Aubart, we believe that he possesses the necessary temperament, judgment, character, and integrity to serve as a District Court Judge with distinction and that he will be a valuable colleague to the Judges serving on the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Mr. Aubart's nomination. We respectfully urge the Committee to report Mr. Aubart's nomination favorably and recommend his confirmation to the full United States Senate.

Sincerely,

