STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov
(701) 328-2210

Drew H. Wrigley
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 5, 2026

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

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

RE: Philip Axt's Nomination to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

As employees and elected officials of the State of North Dakota who have the privilege of working with Philip Axt, it is an honor to write this letter in support of his nomination to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. We have worked with Mr. Axt as his supervisor, colleagues and clients throughout his tenure as the Solicitor General for North Dakota, and we respectfully urge you to support his confirmation.

Mr. Axt's dedication to public service is evident from his distinguished military career as well as his highly regarded work on behalf of his home state of North Dakota. When he joined the North Dakota Attorney General's Office, he was charged with creating a new Solicitor General Division, and he quickly demonstrated his strong leadership skills, legal talents, and administrative capabilities in this mission. As Solicitor General, he has exceeded all expectations for the superb quality of his work and his remarkable work ethic.

Mr. Axt is entrusted with some of the state's most significant cases, from the initial phases of litigation through each level of appeal in both state and federal courts. He is equally adept at developing multifaceted litigation strategies as he is at preparing targeted appellate arguments. He has an exceptional talent for analyzing highly complex legal issues and communicating his analyses clearly and cogently to lawyers and nonlawyers alike. Regardless of the case at hand, his approach to legal matters is consistently shaped by his intellectual integrity, seasoned judgment, and dedication to the rule of law.

In addition to having a remarkable intellect, Mr. Axt is a valued colleague. Although he is personally responsible for an enormous volume of work, he frequently takes time to assist co-workers and assume new duties to further the interests of the Attorney General's Office. Clients appreciate his collaborative approach, timely and helpful communications, and professionalism. Even in tense or difficult situations, Mr. Axt remains calm and focused, and those of us who work with him have complete confidence in his ability to always meet the very highest standards in his work.

Mr. Axt has demonstrated to us that he possesses the capabilities, temperament, work ethics, and judgment required of United States District Court Judges. We believe he would be an excellent addition to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota and respectfully urge the Committee to support his confirmation.

Respectfully,

Claire Ness
Chief Deputy Attorney General
North Dakota Attorney General's Office

Senator David Hogue
Chairman, Legislative Management
Majority Leader
North Dakota Senate

Senator Janne Myrdal
Chairman, Interim Judiciary Committee
Member, Legislative Management
North Dakota Senate

Jeremy Ensrud
Director, Criminal Law Division
North Dakota Attorney General's Office

Joseph Bialke
Legal Counsel
North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Thomas Bodine
Deputy Commissioner
North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Sandra McMerty
Deputy Secretary of State
North Dakota Secretary of State's Office