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TODD ROKITA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 5, 2026

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

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

Re: Letter of Support from State Solicitors General and Senior Staff of State Attorneys General for Philip Axt's Nomination to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as state Solicitors General and senior staff of state Attorneys General to express our strong support for the nomination of Philip Axt to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. As attorneys who have labored alongside Phil in representing our respective States in some of the most consequential and sophisticated matters percolating around the Nation, we are well acquainted with him and the qualities proper to a member of the federal bench. We believe Phil should be confirmed to the seat.

As you know, state Attorneys General lead a variety of complex cases vitally important to our Nation—from cases critical to safeguarding access to abundant, affordable, and reliable energy; to cases that protect our children from various dangers; to cases that ensure that elections will be orderly, secure, and fair. Our offices also handle many matters that may not make national headlines but profoundly affect local interests and communities. Leading this wide variety of litigation takes attorneys who are committed to the principles undergirding our Republic and have proven themselves to be careful thinkers and incisive writers.

We have seen Phil display these qualities. He has handled a wide variety of benchmark litigation for North Dakota that required adept constitutional analysis and careful parsing of complex statutory and regulatory schemes. And his writing, comments, and advocacy have been consistently insightful. He has shown himself equipped to handle the types of cases that come before federal district courts.

If confirmed, Phil also would bring a wealth of experience to bear. He has served in state government as North Dakota's Solicitor General, spent several years in private practice with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, clerked for the Honorable Jennifer Walker Elrod of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and served our Nation in several military and national security roles.

We respectfully commend Phil to the Committee and urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably to the full Senate.

Sincerely,

James A. Barta
Solicitor General of Indiana

A. Barrett Bowdre
Solicitor General of Alabama

Robert M. Overing
Principal Deputy Solicitor General of Alabama

Autumn Hamit Patterson
Solicitor General of Arkansas

David Dewhirst
Solicitor General of Florida

Jason Muehlhoff
Chief Deputy Solicitor General of Florida

Ryan Newman
Chief Deputy Attorney General of Florida

John Henry Thompson
Solicitor General of Georgia

Matthew F. Kuhn
Solicitor General of Kentucky

Benjamin Aguiñaga
Solicitor General of Louisiana

Michael Zarian
Solicitor General of Idaho

Eric Wessan
Solicitor General of Iowa

Scott G. Stewart
Solicitor General of Mississippi

Louis J. Capozzi, III
Solicitor General of Missouri

Christian Corrigan
Solicitor General of Montana

Cody S. Barnett
Solicitor General of Nebraska

Garry M. Gaskins, II
Solicitor General of Oklahoma

Paul Swedlund
Solicitor General of South Dakota

Chris Tutor
Chief of Staff of Tennessee

Stanford Purser
Solicitor General of Utah

Michael R. William
Solicitor General of West Virginia