Tom S. Lee
Ret. United States District Judge
641 North Woodland Drive
Forest, Mississippi 39074

F. Keith Ball
Ret. United States Magistrate Judge
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October 27, 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: Todd Butler's Appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Durbin:

We submit this letter in support of Todd Butler's appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

From 1984 to 2026, I, Tom S. Lee, served as a United States District Judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. From 2010 to 2024, I, F. Keith Ball, served as a United States Magistrate Judge on the same Court.

As former judges, we had opportunities to observe Mr. Butler firsthand when he appeared before us as counsel representing parties before our Court. In those proceedings, he consistently demonstrated the requisite qualities for serving as an appellate judge.

Mr. Butler was always professional, ethical, knowledgeable, well-prepared, and competent. He treated the Court, opposing counsel, and opposing parties with respect and conducted himself with the utmost integrity and professionalism. Our observations of him were consistently positive, both in his legal abilities and in his personal character.

Based on our direct experience with Mr. Butler, we believe he possesses the judgment, temperament, integrity, and respect for the judicial process that qualify him for service on the Fifth Circuit. We offer this endorsement based on our own observations of his conduct and abilities as an attorney appearing before us.

We respectfully urge you to give favorable consideration to Todd Butler's appointment, and it is our honor and privilege to support his appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tom S. Lee

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