From the desk of

# PHIL BRYANT

64th Governor of Mississippi

October 22, 2026

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

**Re: Nomination of Todd Butler to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

As the 64th Governor of the State of Mississippi, I write to give my full support to President Trump's nomination of Todd Butler to serve as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Todd is a superstar. I have watched him become one of the finest attorneys in our State, a leader of the Bar, and a man of character in his community. I am confident he will serve the Fifth Circuit and the Nation with distinction.

Todd's story is the embodiment of Mississippi. He was raised by conservative parents in a small town and graduated as Valedictorian of his public high school. He finished *summa cum laude* from Mississippi State University before doing the same at Mississippi College School of Law. In law school, he served as Editor-in-Chief of his Law Review, one of the highest honors a student can earn. His early success reflects the same exceptional ability shown throughout his career.

After a federal clerkship, Todd built one of the largest litigation practices in the State. He has handled hundreds of matters in federal and state courts, much of which has been in defense of law enforcement. Todd has stood up for the men and women who protect our communities and has done so with skill, integrity, and reverence for the rule of law.

Todd is a proven leader. Before he turned 40 years old, he was chosen as Office Managing Partner for one of Mississippi's largest law firms. His colleagues trusted him with that role at such a young age because of his judgment, fairness, and steady hand. He has led the firm well and grown it. The judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi showed similar confidence in him when they appointed him to chair the committee charged with selecting a United States Magistrate Judge. Few assignments better show the respect a person has earned from the federal bench than being charged with adding a member to their court family.

During my administration, Todd served as Chairman of the Appellate Practice Section of the Mississippi Bar in 2016 and 2017. In that position, he worked to improve appellate advocacy and practice across our State. He also has given back to the community through teaching, training, and volunteerism.

Todd Butler has the intellect, experience, temperament, and integrity that the Fifth Circuit deserves. He understands the proper and limited role of a judge in our constitutional system and is a principled conservative who believes that judges must interpret the law as it is written. I give Todd my highest recommendation and urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably and without delay. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,



Phil Bryant
64th Governor of Mississippi and Co-founder of BSS Global