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February 3, 2014

**Via Fax and Electronically**

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 2510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

By this letter, I express my strong support for the confirmation of John Cruden to be the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice.

Having served as AAG for ENRD from 1981 to 1983, and thereafter as the Deputy Attorney General in 1984-85, I am very familiar with the Division and what is required to lead it effectively. Without question John possesses the experience and personal qualities that will ensure the Division will be in the best possible hands. John joined ENRD after my departure, so my experience with him in the Division has been on opposite sides of the table, not always successfully for my clients. John was unfailingly courteous, attentive, available, and reasoned in his response. It is always gratifying to know one can rely on the preparation, wisdom and integrity of the public officials with whom one deals. John exemplifies the highest level of all those qualities.

It has also been my privilege to serve in other professional arenas with John. He is one of my successors in chairing the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources. For many years we have been members of the faculty for the American Law Institute's short courses on environmental litigation, and we were both elected Fellows in the early years of the American College of Environmental Lawyers. As

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Chair of ABA President Karen Mathis' Appointments Committee, it was my privilege to recommend that she appoint John to chair a standing committee, which she did.

John's exemplary military record is one of his many outstanding qualifications to serve as AAG, and his leadership in the Division as Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section and subsequently as the Deputy AAG left an ineffable font of goodwill among the career people in ENRD. John's sterling and richly-deserved reputation within the Department as a whole will contribute to John's being among the most effective AAGs ever appointed to head ENRD.

I recommend John with great enthusiasm and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol E. Dinkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent dot over the 'i' in "Dinkins".

Carol E. Dinkins