

6001 Tomas Court, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
February 5, 2018

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

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Recommendation of Joel M. Carson III
For the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit**

Dear Senator Grassley, Senator Feinstein, and Members of the Committee on the Judiciary:

I write in support of President Trump's nomination of Joel M. Carson III for the appointment to the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. I served as President of the New Mexico State Bar Association in 1980-1981. I have been actively involved as counsel in commercial litigation throughout my career. Through my practice, I am aware of Joel Carson's longstanding contributions as a legal practitioner. My experience with Joel Carson, which includes our both appearing for different clients in significant cases in New Mexico, has provided me with substantial insight into his personal and professional characteristics.

In law school at the University of New Mexico, he earned the *corpus juris secumdatum* award in Property Law and served as Administrative Editor of the Natural Resources Journal. Following law school, he served for two years as law clerk to Judge Bobby R. Baldock of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Joel Carson has a breadth of experience and training in the energy industry. He serves on the legal committees for both the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico. He is a member of the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. Also, he was General Counsel to one of New Mexico's

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largest producers of oil and gas. He has an exceptional judicial temperament and an outstanding legal mind.

I heartily and proudly urge the Committee to support Joel M. Carson III for appointment to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John R. Cooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John R. Cooney