

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write to you in support of the nomination of Joshua (“Josh”) Dunlap to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. We come from different backgrounds, hold a range of views on matters of law and policy, and have pursued legal careers and various positions across the public sector, in private practice, in academia, and as in-house counsel. We share the privilege of having served as law clerks alongside Josh during our clerkships in 2008 to 2009 for the Honorable Paul J. Kelly, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. As fellow law clerks, we saw firsthand Josh’s commitment to fairly and evenly upholding the letter of the law, while efficiently completing the Court’s work with accuracy and justice in mind. We also all share the view that Josh should be confirmed for the seat on the First Circuit.

Josh is highly qualified for this important appointment. He earned his law degree from the Notre Dame Law School, where he graduated first in his class and *summa cum laude*. He was a published editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*. Following his clerkship for Circuit Judge Kelly, Josh joined the leading Maine law firm of Pierce Atwood, LLP, rising in the attorney ranks to become a partner. He has litigated complex civil cases in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Of note, he assisted the special masters in three original proceedings before the United States Supreme Court. One of those special masters was our own Judge Kelly. Josh certainly has the experience, commitment, and intellect required for this role.

Josh also contributes to his community and profession outside of the courtroom through his church and serving as chair of the Maine Appellate Rules Committee. His broad experience in public service and private practice has prepared him well for a federal appellate judgeship. On top of Josh’s impressive legal accomplishments, he is remarkably humble, collegial, and professional. His character is sterling. It is without hesitation that we strongly support Josh’s nomination for this important position.

Respectfully,

Katherine C. Hughes
Maureen S. Lawrence
Robert J. Tepper
Law Clerks to the Hon. Paul J. Kelly, Jr. (2008-2009)