

August 16, 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: *Nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.*

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I am writing to you and the other members of the Committee to express my strong support for the nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes to be a Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. I have known Mr. Kobes for 12 years in both professional and personal capacities. As a friend and former colleague of Mr. Kobes, I enthusiastically support his nomination because of his abilities, temperament, experience and personal character.

Mr. Kobes and I were both associate attorneys at a small law firm in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For a period of time, we were the only associate attorneys at this small law firm. As a result, I had the pleasure of getting to know Mr. Kobes in both professional and personal capacities. Although we practiced in different areas of the law, Mr. Kobes and I had numerous opportunities to discuss various issues we were working on. In conjunction with those discussions, I would often have opportunities to review court briefs and other legal documents that Mr. Kobes had prepared. My interactions and discussions with Mr. Kobes revealed his deep understanding of the issues, his ability to digest the law and the facts, his excellent analytical and writing skills as well as his appreciation of the law.

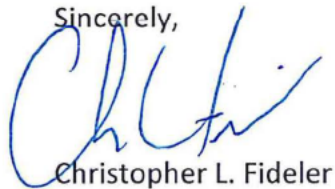
Although Mr. Kobes and I worked together as associate attorneys for only a couple of years, we have remained in contact as he has pursued other career interests. Mr. Kobes' experience is not limited to the private practice of law. Mr. Kobes has served in other professional capacities that establish his qualifications to serve as a member of the federal judiciary. Mr. Kobes has been a law clerk for the Honorable Roger Wollman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, counsel for a biofuel company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, senior regulatory counsel for a seed manufacturing company in Des Moines, Iowa, and director of corporate compliance for a manufacturer of agricultural products in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Finally, Mr. Kobes has served as Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel to United States Senator Mike Rounds. Mr. Kobes'

legal, regulatory, compliance, and legislative experience demonstrate a vast breadth of experience and perspectives that will suit him well on the federal bench.

Mr. Kobes is professional, ethical, honest, sincere, reliable, fair, and respectful to others. I have been fortunate enough to know Mr. Kobes for a number of years. I can state, without reservation, that Mr. Kobes has the experience, qualifications, abilities, and temperament to serve the public honorably and with distinction as a Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Therefore, I enthusiastically support the nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ch. Fideler', is written over the printed name.

Christopher L. Fideler