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May 31, 2024

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The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Thom Tillis, United States Senator
The Honorable Tedd Budd, United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

Re: Letter in Support of Ryan Park for a Fourth Circuit Nomination

Dear : President Biden, Senator Tillis, and Senator Budd:

I am honored to write in support of Ryan Park, my former professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and current Solicitor General of North Carolina, for nomination to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

I recently joined the firm of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell, & Jernigan, LLP, one of North Carolina's largest and most respected law firms. With a lifelong commitment to public service and conservative principles, along with a deep admiration for the rule of law, I have attempted to align myself with individuals who share similar values, both in their personal lives and professional environments. In a world often marked by hostility toward differing viewpoints, I greatly appreciate the environment I have found within my firm, where mutual respect and a commitment to the rule of law are foundational to our attorneys. While I am grateful to have this today, my appreciation for such values was largely revealed to me during my time in law school, particularly through the example set by Ryan Park. As my professor for a course focused on the North Carolina State Constitution, Ryan was dedicated to the values of collaboration and respect, and his unwavering commitment to legal integrity and fundamental principles has left a lasting impression on me.

In our course, Ryan focused on fostering intellectual discussions on historical and contemporary legal issues that have shaped our state and nation over the past three centuries. As a former intern to state senators Jeff Tarte and Jerry Tillman, the Hon. Frank Whitney of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, and the Hon. Paul Newby, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, my political and legal philosophies were well-known among the class. Nonetheless, and despite the diversity of perspectives, Ryan created an environment where respectful discussion and scholarly engagement was able to thrive. Additionally, his teachings emphasized the importance of in-depth legal analysis and the ability to be impartial in judicial interpretations. For these reasons and more, I am not only grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from an individual such as he, but I also truly believe that students finished the course in better positions to effectively advocate legal opinions in the future, rather than merely engage in emotional political debates. These skills are incredibly valuable in society today, and North Carolina's legal community will benefit for decades to come from the admission of Ryan's former students to the bar.

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In the time that I have known Ryan, it has become clear to me that his intellect is matched only by his skills as an advocate and scholar. While Ryan and I may disagree on various topics, I have no hesitation in providing my support for his considered nomination. Our shared dedication to the principles that unite us and our unwavering respect for the rule of law outweigh any differences that we may have, now or in the future. The federal judiciary and our nation would benefit from Ryan's tenure on the bench, and I respectfully request that you give his nomination your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas R. Zanzot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nicholas R. Zanzot

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