

Matthew J. Konenkamp

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Date: August 20, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Jonathan Kobes as Circuit Court Judge, United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

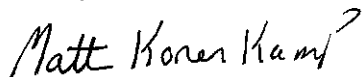
Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to you and the Members of the Committee in support of the nomination of Jonathan Kobes to be a Circuit Court Judge on the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I am a member of the South Dakota Bar Association. I've practiced law in South Dakota for fifteen years and have worked as a litigator the majority of my time as an attorney.

I met Jon when he was serving as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Rapid City, SD in the early 2000s. He was prosecuting a cocaine trafficking conspiracy that ultimately led to the conviction of twenty-nine defendants, who together were sentenced to serve more than 400 years. He played a critical role in securing those convictions. I represented one of the defendants and throughout my time on the case, I found Jon to be intelligent, fair, and highly competent.

Since that time, I have interacted with him on many occasions while he has served in the capacity of General Counsel to Senator M. Michael Rounds and I served as an advisor to Governor Dennis Daugaard. In those instances, Jon has always displayed wisdom and thoughtfulness in his approach to the legal matters he was addressing. These traits, along with his experience as a federal prosecutor, as council to several large corporations and to U.S. Senator M. Michael Rounds will serve him well in the capacity of an appeals court justice, should you confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Konenkamp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew J. Konenkamp, Esquire