November 12, 2026

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

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of William Grayson Lambert to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write in strong support of the nomination of William Grayson Lambert to the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. Grayson served as my law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 2012 to 2013. Over a judicial career of more than thirty years, including twelve years as a district judge in the District of South Carolina, I worked with many talented law clerks. Grayson was among the very best.

His work in chambers was exceptional in every respect. His bench memoranda were thorough, precise, and fair; he identified the controlling question in an appeal, set out the strongest arguments on each side, and gave me his honest recommendation. He gave every case the same careful attention, whether the appellant was a large corporation or a prisoner proceeding *pro se*. And while carrying a full share of the Court's docket, he found time, entirely on his own initiative and outside of work hours, to research and write law review articles. Few clerks attempt such extracurricular endeavors, and fewer succeed. It is a testament to his work ethic, his initiative, and his genuine commitment to legal scholarship.

To be sure, Grayson did not always agree with me, and when he did not agree, he would tell me why, respectfully and with reasons. Based on this experience, I expect Grayson would adopt his own judicial philosophy. What I can tell the Committee with confidence is how he would approach each case. Just as he did in chambers, I am certain that he would carefully evaluate the arguments on both sides and reach a principled conclusion based on a fair and honest assessment of the facts and the law.

I have followed Grayson's career with pride ever since his time in my chambers. He practiced with two fine law firms, rising to partner, before entering public service, first serving as the Governor's Chief Deputy Legal Counsel and Senior Litigation Counsel and now as Chief Legal Counsel. His scholarship has continued throughout, as has his service to the profession. Both in private practice and public service, Grayson has continued to devote significant time to important professional initiatives, including as a member of the South Carolina Bar's House of Delegates and as a member and chairman (simultaneously) of the Bar's Trial and Appellate Advocacy Council and the Fourth Circuit's Rules Advisory Committee.

I have seen this process from both sides of the table, as Chief Counsel and Staff Director of this Committee and twice as a nominee before it. I also know from experience what the District Court demands: a judge who will master the record, rule promptly, manage a heavy docket, and treat every lawyer and litigant with civility and respect. Grayson has each of those qualities.

I am pleased to recommend Grayson without reservation, and I respectfully urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably and the Senate to confirm him.

Respectfully,

Dennis W. Shedd

Dennis W. Shedd
United States Circuit Judge (Retired)