

March 24, 2026

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

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

Re: Letter of Support for Katie Lane’s Nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are former law clerks of the Honorable Timothy M. Tymkovich of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and we write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Kathleen “Katie” Lane to serve as U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana. Katie clerked in Judge Tymkovich’s chambers, and we are unanimous in our view that she is well suited for this appointment. Each of us signs this letter in a personal capacity, and not on behalf of any current or former employer or client.

We come from a range of geographic, professional, and political backgrounds—working in private practice, public service, academia, and nonprofits—yet we are united in our conviction that Katie possesses the legal acumen, character, and temperament suited to the federal bench. What unites us is in this belief is what we have observed firsthand: a careful legal mind paired with a sterling character.

Katie graduated from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *George Mason Law Review*. Following her clerkship with Judge Thomas A. Varlan on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Katie clerked for then-Chief Judge Tymkovich on the Tenth Circuit. During her clerkship with Judge Tymkovich, Katie distinguished herself. Those of us who clerked with her observed her to be a precise legal thinker, capable of quickly identifying the dispositive issue in a case and working through complex problems with rigor and care. She approached each case on its own terms, without preconceptions about outcomes, and she was a forceful and collegial interlocutor—willing to press a position to its logical limit and equally willing to be persuaded by a better argument. Since her clerkship the rest of us have had the opportunity to see the same qualities manifest in her legal practice.

Beyond her analytical gifts, Katie is a person of genuine character. She is humble, warm, and consistently considerate in her dealings with everyone around her—colleagues, court staff, and counsel alike. During her clerkship, that same warmth extended beyond chambers: Katie was a natural convener, regularly organizing social and professional events that brought together

clerks from across the Tenth Circuit's many chambers. Those qualities have only deepened through the years of demanding public service that followed her clerkship. Katie is always willing to provide mentorship and guidance to more junior lawyers, and to contribute in her legal communities. We have no doubt this willingness will make her an influential voice in the bar and a mentor to her own future clerks.

Those who clerked alongside Katie will recognize in her subsequent record the same qualities they observed in chambers; those who came to know her later will find that record unsurprising. She practiced at Jones Day and Consovoy McCarthy PLLC, gaining substantial appellate and litigation experience. She then returned to her home state of Montana, where she served as Deputy Solicitor General under Attorney General Austin Knudsen defending Montana's laws in state and federal court and challenging federal overreach on behalf of Montana's citizens. Most recently, she has served as senior legal counsel at the Republican National Committee. At each stage, she has brought the same intellectual seriousness and personal integrity we observed in chambers. And from these diverse positions, she has developed courtroom experience and litigation skills beyond that of many lawyers her senior.

Montana is fortunate to have one of its own nominated to serve on its federal bench. We are confident that Katie Lane will be an outstanding district court judge—faithful to the law, scrupulously fair to the parties before her, and a genuine asset to the federal judiciary. We strongly urge the Committee and the full Senate to confirm her without delay.

Sincerely,

[Signatures on following page(s)]

Signatory (Clerkship Year)

Hayley Chang ('04)
Chris Murray ('06)
Michael Francisco ('07)
Fred Yarger ('08)
Will Adams ('09)
Jason Fisher ('09)
Julian Ellis ('15)
Sylvia 'May' Mailman ('15)
Evan Stein ('15)
Rachel Siegel ('15)
Claire Chapla ('16)
Sami Ahmed ('17)
Martin J. Salvucci ('18)
Josh Craddock ('18)
Neal Hoopes ('18)
Walter Hawes ('19)
Maxwell Schwartz ('19)
Hayley Stillwell ('20)
Ben Gibson ('20)
Haley Dutch ('21)
David Willner ('21)
David Gonzalez ('21)
David Finkel ('22)
Erin Gust ('22)
Cole Campbell ('22)
Theodore Furtchgott ('23)
Andrew Ezekoye ('23)
Peter Allevato ('24)
Jun Nam ('24)
Stephanie Hahn ('24)