

ERIC BURLISON
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

Oversight and Accountability Committee

Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2507

September 25, 2026

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

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

Re: Nomination of Jesus A. Osete to the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write in support of the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

The Western District has a significant presence in southwest Missouri, including the communities in and around Springfield and Joplin that I represent. The judges who serve on this court make consequential decisions affecting individuals, businesses, local governments, and communities throughout our region. Those responsibilities call for lawyers with substantial experience, sound legal judgment, and a clear understanding of the constitutional structure within which the federal courts operate.

Jesus brings an unusually broad range of experience to this nomination. He previously served Missouri as Deputy Solicitor General and Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation, positions in which he handled significant litigation and addressed questions involving government authority, constitutional limitations, and the respective roles of state and federal law. He later served as General Counsel to the Missouri Secretary of State.

His public service is matched by substantial appellate experience. Jesus practiced at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, clerked for Judge Bobby Shepherd of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and then-Justice Zel Fischer of the Supreme Court of Missouri, and has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. He now serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

That record has given Jesus experience from several different perspectives within our legal system. He has advised state officials, represented government in court, represented private clients, worked inside both federal and state appellate chambers, handled litigation at the Supreme Court, and served in senior leadership at the Department of Justice.

His experience with federalism and constitutional structure is particularly relevant to the work of a federal district judge. During his service to Missouri, Jesus dealt directly with questions involving state authority, federal law, and constitutional limits on government power. Those are not academic questions. They arise in cases affecting state and local governments, businesses, and individual citizens throughout Missouri.

Jesus also has deep ties to our great state. He attended Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, practiced law in Missouri, served in senior positions in Missouri government, and has spent a significant portion of his career serving Missouri and its institutions.

The Committee therefore has before it a nominee with substantial appellate credentials, extensive state and federal government experience, two judicial clerkships, Supreme Court advocacy experience, and considerable familiarity with Missouri and its legal community.

For the people of southwest Missouri, the work of the Western District matters. Jesus's record reflects substantial legal experience, years of public service, and firsthand familiarity with the constitutional questions that regularly come before the federal courts. For these reasons, I recommend that the Committee report his nomination favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Burlison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" being more prominent and the last name "Burlison" following in a similar style.

Eric Burlison
Member of Congress