



September 23, 2026

**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**

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

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Committee:

The American Suppressor Association writes in support of the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

The American Suppressor Association represents manufacturers, dealers, consumers, and others throughout the suppressor community. Our work is focused on protecting the rights of law-abiding Americans to own and use firearm suppressors and educating policymakers and the public about their lawful use, including their important role in protecting the hearing of hunters, recreational shooters, and others who use firearms.

Mr. Osete's work at the Department of Justice has been particularly significant to our community. As a senior official in the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Osete has been directly involved in the Department's recognition of the Second Amendment as a fundamental right. That work has included litigation addressing not only firearms themselves but firearm accessories and suppressors specifically.

In *Barnett v. Raoul*, Mr. Osete was among the senior Civil Rights Division officials on a brief filed by the United States challenging Illinois's ban on commonly owned firearms, magazines, and other firearm attachments. The United States argued that the Second Amendment protects firearm attachments in common use by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes and recognized that such attachments can make firearms safer, easier to aim, and easier to use for self-defense.

That principle is important to the suppressor community. Suppressors are safety devices. They reduce the sound signature of a firearm, help protect shooters and those around them from permanent hearing damage, reduce noise, and can reduce recoil and improve the safe and effective use of a firearm. They do not make firearms silent, and millions of law-abiding Americans use them for lawful purposes.

The Civil Rights Division has also taken the important step of confronting categorical suppressor bans directly. In litigation against the District of Columbia, the Department amended its complaint to challenge D.C.'s prohibition on firearm suppressors. The Department's position recognizes that a government



cannot avoid Second Amendment protections simply by banning a component or accessory associated with the lawful use of a firearm.

More recently, the Department expanded its litigation against the U.S. Virgin Islands following the enactment of Act 9113, which prohibits suppressors along with other firearm restrictions. That litigation raises another important question: whether a government may impose a categorical prohibition on suppressors used by otherwise law-abiding citizens.

These actions are meaningful to our members because, for many years, suppressors have too often been discussed as though they are inherently dangerous or illegitimate rather than lawful tools used by responsible firearm owners for hearing protection, hunting, training, and other lawful purposes.

Mr. Osete's record demonstrates a willingness to examine these issues through the Constitution, governing precedent, and the actual function of the products at issue rather than through outdated misconceptions about suppressors.

We believe that perspective is important in a federal judge. Courts addressing Second Amendment questions are regularly called upon to distinguish between permissible regulation and categorical restrictions on constitutionally protected conduct. They must take the Supreme Court's direction on constitutional text, history, and tradition seriously and apply that law even in politically controversial cases.

Mr. Osete's work at the Department reflects substantial experience confronting those questions. His record also extends well beyond Second Amendment litigation. He has served at senior levels of both state and federal government, practiced appellate law in the private sector, and clerked for two judges. That breadth of experience provides a strong foundation for service on the federal bench.

The American Suppressor Association appreciates the opportunity to share its perspective on Mr. Osete's professional record and, in particular, his work involving the constitutional rights of law-abiding firearm owners and suppressor users. We urge the Committee to report Mr. Osete's nomination favorably to the full Senate.

Respectfully,

Knox Williams
President & Executive Director
American Suppressor Association