



COMPTROLLER
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Peter Franchot
Comptroller

February 22, 2017

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

Re: Nomination of Rod J. Rosenstein – Deputy Attorney General

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to express my strong support for Rod J. Rosenstein's nomination to be Deputy Attorney General of the United States. While I am truly saddened to see him leave his current post as U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, I am confident that Rod will be an invaluable asset to the nation if confirmed by the Senate to be our next deputy attorney general.

I've had the privilege of knowing Rod for more than a decade, since President Bush appointed him as our state's U.S. Attorney in 2005. As Maryland's top federal prosecutor and the nation's longest-serving U.S. Attorney, Rod has rightfully earned the respect and admiration of leaders from both parties at the state and federal level for his unquestionable integrity, fidelity to the Constitution and our laws, and firm commitment to fighting corruption, violent gangs and criminal organizations, and financial crimes. Furthermore, he has built strong relationships with law enforcement agencies across Maryland, and the collaboration that his office and those agencies share has undoubtedly made our communities safer.

As this Committee is aware, Rod brings more than 27 years of public service, having spent 26 of those in the U.S. Department of Justice – an institution that would undoubtedly continue to benefit from his legal acumen, breadth of legal experience, and a celebrated record of success and leadership in enforcing our laws and bringing criminals to justice. With the grave threats facing our nation both domestically and internationally, Rod is the right person to assume this pivotal role in our Justice Department.

In my role as the independently-elected Comptroller of Maryland, he and I have worked closely together to address the continued growth of tax fraud which – as this Committee is aware – is one of the most pressing challenges facing tax administrators at all levels of government. My agency, like most government agencies, has enjoyed a close working relationship with the U.S. Attorney's Office – especially as we continue to aggressively protect Marylanders from being victimized by tax fraud and identity theft. Working together, we have increased public awareness of these highly-sophisticated financial crimes and have worked collaboratively to bring financial predators to justice.

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
February 22, 2017
Page 2

As a Marylander and a Democratic elected official spanning three decades, I am truly grateful for the leadership that Rod has demonstrated during his tenure as U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, and his highly-successful efforts to reduce crime in our state. He is a consummate public servant with a proven track record of success and excellence, and merits the strong support of this Committee and the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can provide additional information in support of Rod's nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Franchot", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Franchot
Comptroller of Maryland

PF/emw