

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING**

Alan B. Johnson
U.S. District Judge



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March 18, 2013

Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senator
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Enzi Nomination of Greg Phillips

Dear Senator Enzi:

This letter reminds me of my nomination and hearing before the Judiciary Committee over twenty-eight years ago. How proud I was to have Senators Malcolm Wallop and Al Simpson on my right and left on that daunting occasion. My friend, Greg Phillips, will be equally proud and honored to have you at his side on this important and memorable event in his life. Greg Phillips will honor the remarkable judicial officers who have preceded him by virtue of his devotion to the rule of law, his willingness and energy he will devote to finding the right result, and his unflagging honesty and good will. His steady industry and courtesy will certainly generate respect among colleagues and litigants.

My friendship with Greg Phillips began when I selected him to serve as an elbow clerk just as I was experiencing the complexities of being a newly sworn trial judge. Greg was at the top of his class at the University of Wyoming, and my recollection of his service is one of long hours and intense study as both of us managed the docket. Greg was an outstanding law clerk and an easy person to be around when we traveled to trial locations in Wyoming and Colorado. He was also a favorite and helpful figure in the Office of the Clerk of Court by the time he finished his term in my chambers.

Throughout later years I have followed Greg's progress as a lawyer. First he returned to Evanston, Wyoming, where his father maintained a busy and respected practice and his mother served as the Clerk of the District Court. Greg became established in his home area and was soon elected to the State Senate for two terms. After moving to the State Capitol in 1998, a successful law practice was established with Greg's friend, Matt Mead. I was pleased when Greg followed Matt to the Office of the

March 18, 2013

Page 2

United States Attorney as an Assistant United States Attorney because Greg would appear in federal court more frequently. His thorough study of the United States Sentencing Guidelines earned respect of the Judges and opposing counsel. In 2010 Mead was elected Governor of Wyoming and again sought Greg's talent by nominating and appointing him to serve as Wyoming Attorney General. As Attorney General, Greg has assumed responsibility for major litigation conducted by the State and has managed that large law firm successfully during a period of transition.

I have tried to quickly summarize Greg Phillip's background because it is crucial to an understanding of the scope of experience that he will bring to the Tenth Circuit. An understanding of the legislative process and respect for the differing roles of each branch of government will serve his work in the court. His work as a State official provides a depth of understanding of issues State and Federal and provides an exposure that very few lawyers possess. His work at the Office of the United States Attorney and the experience of bringing cases reflecting the work of dedicated federal agents results in an understanding of the processes behind the investigation and prosecution of federal criminal cases. Again and again, local defense attorneys have expressed their appreciation for the fair handed, respectful, and even tempered treatment they have received from Greg Phillips.

Finally, I end this overly long letter by stating without any equivocation that Greg Phillips is a good man, an involved and nurturing father, and a loving husband, who somehow maintains a remarkable balance between work and family. I hope that this letter allows you to feel the same pride and respect as I do toward this son of Wyoming who is your nominee to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan B. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" and last name "Johnson" clearly legible.

ALAN B. JOHNSON
United States District Judge

ABJ/abj