

July 23, 2018

Eric C. Schulte
Writer's Direct Dial No. 605-357-1241
E-mail: eschulte@dehs.com

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

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

Re: Nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes to be a Circuit Judge for the United States
Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to you and Members of the Committee in support of the nomination of Jonathan A. Kobes to be a Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. I have known Mr. Kobes both personally and professionally for several years. As Mr. Kobes' friend and fellow lawyer in South Dakota, I join with the President to support his nomination. I believe, without hesitation, that he would make an exceptional Circuit Court Judge.

For the Committee's information, I have been practicing law in South Dakota since 2000 at the Davenport Evans Law Firm. I am a trial lawyer practicing primarily in the area of civil litigation. I previously served as President for the South Dakota State Bar from 2015 through 2016.

Over the course of my career, I had the good fortune of getting to know Mr. Kobes both personally and professionally. He is a man of integrity. Mr. Kobes treats everyone he meets with respect. Furthermore, he is highly regarded by his peers for being both civil and professional. He is also regarded by his peers as being an excellent lawyer. Mr. Kobes has a sound legal mind, and has served our profession very capably and with honor during his career.

In my opinion, Mr. Kobes' diverse professional background makes him uniquely suited for the judiciary. Mr. Kobes previously worked as a federal prosecutor in South Dakota. His

July 23, 2018

Page 2

work as a federal prosecutor included working in Indian Country. In my view, it is critical for the judiciary to understand the unique and complicated issues facing Indian Country. Mr. Kobes' experience in this area has provided him with a valuable perspective, and would undoubtedly assist him on the bench should he be confirmed to the Eighth Circuit.

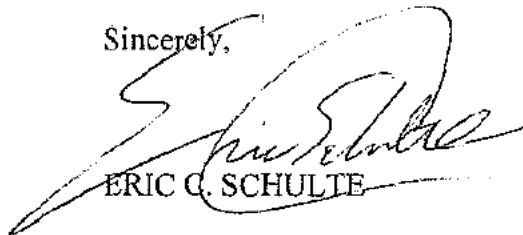
Mr. Kobes also has extensive experience as a litigator in private practice. Further, as in-house counsel for Raven Industries and POET, he gained valuable experience in advising two of the more successful businesses in South Dakota. Moreover, his experience working as legal counsel for Senator Rounds since 2014 has been invaluable. In this role, Mr. Kobes has encountered and helped address the most pressing issues currently facing the United States. Based upon this diverse professional background, it is my strong belief that Mr. Kobes would make an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

Mr. Kobes' best attribute, however, is that he is a fundamentally good person. He is a person of good moral character. He is unfailingly polite to others. He possesses sound judgment and has an even temperament. As a result, I strongly support his nomination to be a Circuit Court Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

If the Committee has any questions at all regarding Mr. Kobes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,



ERIC C. SCHULTE

ECS:jkd