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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Nomination of Debo Adegbile to Be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

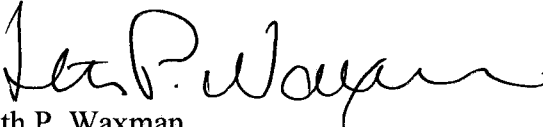
Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I have known, and admired the work of, Debo Adegbile for many years, and we have worked together on a number of important cases. In my view, he is exceptionally well qualified to lead the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Mr. Adegbile is of course a skilled litigator, with a long commitment to civil rights enforcement. He is also a creative thinker and compassionate human being who is inclined to find win-win solutions in circumstances that may appear to present only zero-sum options. That skill will be of paramount benefit to the Civil Rights Division, which is charged with enforcing some of the most precious rights in our society, but which also must operate within a system of government, and of laws, that often have competing imperatives.

During my tenure in government, and in private practice, I have worked with a number of Assistant Attorneys General for Civil Rights. In my judgment, if confirmed, Debo would bring great credit not only to that distinguished cohort and to the dedicated career attorneys in the Division, but also to our national government as a whole. I recommend him without reservation.

Yours sincerely,


Seth P. Waxman