

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Justin D. Smith for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing Missouri's agricultural community, we write to express our strong support for Justin Smith's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Agriculture is the backbone of Missouri's economy. From row crops to cattle, poultry, pork, and dairy, Missouri's agriculture industry supports jobs, drives economic activity, and sustains rural communities across the state. The legal and regulatory issues impacting agriculture are often complex and have direct impacts on producers, agribusinesses, and both local and global economies.

As General Counsel to the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Justin brought exceptional skill and judgment to the legal issues affecting agriculture. In that role, he demonstrated a strong command of the legal and regulatory framework governing the industry and a keen ability to navigate complex questions with clarity and precision. Justin also approached these matters with intellectual rigor, sound judgment, and a steady, disciplined approach, all qualities that made him a trusted advisor on issues of real consequence to Missouri's agricultural community.

In the Missouri Attorney General's Office, Justin was the lead attorney on important cases to agriculture. He argued and won at the Eighth Circuit, defending a law that protected consumers from misleading advertising about meat products. Justin also argued and won three cases at the Supreme Court of Missouri defending state agricultural laws. These laws promoted Missouri agricultural businesses, increased citizen representation on a key regulatory commission, and protected farmers from overreaching local governments. Justin is a skilled advocate who made

well-reasoned arguments regarding the interpretation of federal and state constitutions and the text of new statutes.

Justin has earned the trust and respect of stakeholders across the sector. He is known for his integrity, even temperament, and ability to engage thoughtfully across a wide range of perspectives. Whether working with farmers, industry representatives, or government officials, he has consistently shown a commitment to listening, understanding, and reaching principled outcomes.

The Eighth Circuit covers a region where agriculture plays a significant role in both the economy and daily life. The court will face issues that directly affect producers, agribusinesses, and rural communities. Justin's experience and judgment would make him a strong addition to the court.

We are confident that Justin has the character, intellect, and temperament to serve with distinction. As organizations representing Missouri agriculture, we respectfully urge the Committee to support his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Missouri Farm Bureau
The Poultry Federation
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Dairy
Missouri Agribusiness Association