November 17, 2026

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

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of James P. Sullivan to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write in strong support of Justice James P. Sullivan's nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division. As former colleagues in the Office of Governor Greg Abbott, we had the privilege of working with James during his nearly seven years as Deputy General Counsel and General Counsel. We know him as an exceptional lawyer, a principled public servant, and a man of outstanding character.

Serving as General Counsel to the Governor of Texas requires judgment of an unusual kind. Difficult legal questions often arise without warning, with enormous consequences and limited time for deliberation. James thrived in that environment. He brought formidable intellect, careful preparation, and remarkable composure to the most demanding circumstances. Above all, he understood that his responsibility was to give sound, independent legal advice, even when that meant having difficult conversations.

One of James's greatest strengths is his ability to bring a fresh perspective to difficult questions. James has a gift for recognizing assumptions others have overlooked and approaching challenging legal questions from a fresh angle. He has an independent and inquisitive mind, and he is never content to accept a convenient answer without examining its foundations. Yet his creativity is always anchored in a rigorous understanding of the law. He listens seriously to competing views and is willing to change his mind when persuaded.

James's commitment to public service also reflects a deep love of our country and its constitutional traditions. His patriotism is neither superficial nor performative. He has a profound appreciation for the institutions of American government, the responsibilities they impose, and the importance of preserving them for future generations. He takes seriously the responsibilities of citizenship and public service, just as he takes seriously his responsibilities as a husband and father. For all his professional accomplishments, James has never lost sight of what matters most to him: his family.

Perhaps most importantly, James is an exceptionally decent and kind colleague. He combines high expectations with genuine humility, treats others with respect regardless of their position, and brings warmth and good humor even to challenging circumstances. By custom, all judges are addressed as honorable. But James is truly a man of honor.

We are confident that James will bring these qualities to the federal bench. His independence of mind, fidelity to the law, and respect for others will serve litigants and the public well. We respectfully urge his confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signatories join in their individual capacities; titles are listed for identification only.