November 16, 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:

This letter is submitted to show our deep support for Justice James P. Sullivan's nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. As the longest tenured general counsel in the Office of the Governor for Texas Governor Greg Abbott, we have all benefited from working with James. Few have achieved the level of excellence, dynamism and character that he displayed consistently, for over six years, in that demanding position.

James has made public service a cornerstone of who he is. His commitment to serve demonstrates a love of, and reverence for, this great country and the constitution that undergirds it. He takes seriously the responsibilities of citizenship and public service, and has displayed his appreciation of the American system of government in myriad ways.

Being counsel to the Governor of Texas is a unique position, constantly advising on issues few ever seriously contemplate. Challenging legal questions and matters of import constantly arise with little to no notice, with enormous consequences and little time for deliberation. Giving sound, independent legal advice, practically on the fly, requires the utmost level of skill. Yet James thrived in this task and served with distinction. His knowledge of what the role required, combined with his intellect and calm under immense pressure, allowed him to excel where very few could.

James's service on the Texas Supreme Court underscores both his commitment to public service and the confidence Governor Abbott and the Texas Senate have in his abilities. Governor Abbott appointed James because he recognized James's character, acumen, and fidelity to the rule of law. The Texas Senate then confirmed him unanimously, 31-0, to that post. To be appointed to such a prestigious position is an honor but also a sacrifice, and James accepted the duty with the humility and solemnity that such a position necessitates.

In addition to these professional accomplishments and personality traits—and perhaps most important—James is a good and decent person. He is kind and welcoming to all he meets. He treats all with respect regardless of stature or status, and his warmth and good humor are contagious. He long ago earned our trust through his abilities and high character.

As members of the legislative branch, we appreciate the roles that the other branches of government play in our democratic process. James has served in the executive branch as well as the judicial branch of government, and his positions also provided him with a direct insight into the legislative branch. This deep practical understanding of all three branches of government make James as well-rounded a judicial candidate as exists. This real-world knowledge of how the three branches of government interplay with, and sometimes exist in tension with one another, will be a benefit to the court.

We believe that James has qualities desirable in a federal judge. As state senators who also have an advice-and-consent role for appointees in the great state of Texas, we cannot speak more highly of his abilities and readiness for such a post. We respectfully urge his confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Hughes

Senator, District 1

Bob Hall

Senator, District 2

Brett Ligon

Senator, District 4

Charles Schwertner

Senator, District 5

Paul Bettencourt

Senator, District 7

Angela Paxton

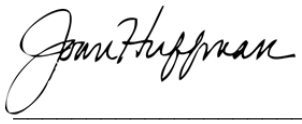
Senator, District 8

Phil King

Senator, District 10

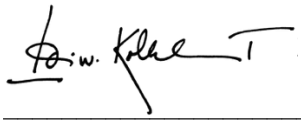
Tan Parker

Senator, District 12



Joan Huffman

Senator, District 17



Lois W. Kolkhorst

Senator, District 18



Pete Flores

Senator, District 24



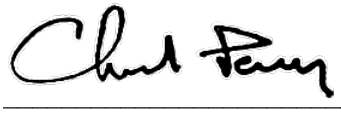
Donna Campbell

Senator, District 25



Adam Hinojosa

Senator, District 27



Charles Perry

Senator, District 28



Brent Hagenbuch

Senator, District 30



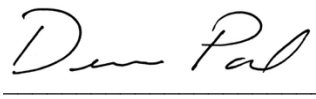
Kevin Sparks

Senator, District 31



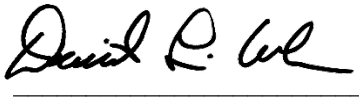
Trent Ashby

Senator-Elect, District 3



Dennis Paul

Senator-Elect, District 11



David Cook

Senator-Elect, District 22