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May 19, 2026

Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
United States Senator

Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
United States Senator

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Durbin:

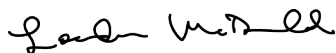
I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Judge Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have firsthand knowledge of his exceptional legal skills and integrity as the former Chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe.

Judge Traynor, as a private attorney at the time, served as my legal counsel during a critical and volatile time regarding our tribal election process. He also served as legal counsel for the recall petitioners during this same period and successfully defended the Spirit Lake Tribe election ordinance and process within our court system and with the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals. His guidance protected our election integrity and brought vital stability to our Tribe when needed most. He demonstrated a deep respect for tribal sovereignty and a steadfast commitment to fairness and the rule of law.

As a private attorney and a federal judge, he has consistently shown the temperament, intellect, and impartiality required for an appellate court. I am confident he will serve the Eighth Circuit with distinction.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advance his nomination and recommend his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Leander R. McDonald, PhD