



OFFICE OF THE PENNINGTON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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July 30, 2018

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

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Jonathon A. Kobes as Circuit Judge,
United States Circuit Court for the 8th Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

I write to you and to the members of the Committee in support of the nomination of Jonathon A. Kobes to be a Circuit Judge for the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I served with Mr. Kobes near the very beginning of his professional career, when we were both Assistant United States Attorneys in the Western Division of the District of South Dakota.

That office is unusual compared to many United States Attorney's offices in that it prosecutes a significant number of cases occurring on the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Lakota Nation. Jurisdictional rules mean that the US Attorney's Office is, effectively, the District Attorney for the felony cases occurring on the reservation, including homicides, sexual assault and child abuse.

I had the privilege of watching as Jon began his career working on some of the most emotionally-demanding cases in the federal system. In fact, we tried cases together. Jon proved himself in that process to be intelligent, dedicated and prepared. Jon was also an extraordinary writer, so much so that he often helped even far more experienced attorneys with their motion work and appellate briefs.

I have every faith that Jon will serve with honor and distinction as an Eighth Circuit judge. He has the intellect and the demeanor to thrive on that court, before which I have argued dozens of times. And I believe that he will bring to that court not only his personal qualities, but an important understanding and appreciation of the real world effects of the decisions made by that court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Vargo', followed by a long horizontal line.

Mark A. Vargo
Pennington County State's Attorney