

September 11, 2026

Senator Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senator Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC. 20510

RE: Zach West's Nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as current and former attorneys of the Oklahoma Attorney General's office who had the privilege of working with Zach West during his service from 2017 to the present time. We have been counsel alongside him on complex litigation and appeals, and several of us have observed his courtroom performance firsthand in motion hearings, evidentiary hearings, and trial. We strongly support his nomination to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Based on our work with many litigators, we have found that Mr. West is particularly thorough and effective in handling witnesses in discovery, evidentiary hearings, and trial. He took the lead in finding witnesses and retaining experts in numerous cases. He deposed witnesses across multiple cases, defended several depositions, and trained other attorneys in how to depose witnesses. He also handled examination of witnesses in evidentiary hearings and at trial in federal court, developing needed evidence and limiting testimony from opposing witnesses. One noteworthy example of his skill occurred in a particularly sensitive case regarding methods of execution that several of the signatories litigated, where Mr. West's careful and even-handed approach led an opposing expert to acknowledge during deposition that his views were not widely held in his field. Mr. West used his command of the evidentiary rules in a manner that was careful rather than aggressive, demonstrating good judgment. This experience with witnesses, especially in federal hearings and trial, is important to his pending nomination because he understands the procedural and evidentiary rules with the depth needed to preside over trials as a district judge.

His work ethic has also been a consistent strength throughout the time we have worked with him. Mr. West approached every case with diligence and attention to detail, putting in the time to ensure that demanding and high-profile cases were handled with excellence. He would review all the relevant authority, distinguish stronger arguments from weaker ones, and draft work product that candidly addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments before him. He often worked late into the night at the office to ensure that important matters received the high-quality work they required. His ability to manage demanding matters and produce careful work under significant time constraints gives us confidence that he would manage the demanding caseload of the Northern District of Oklahoma well and would provide high quality, thoughtful decisions to the litigants appearing before him.

From our review of his many written motions and briefs, we also believe he has the skills necessary to be an excellent judicial writer. His written work is detailed and grounded in the relevant authorities,

and he explains complex issues in a way that makes them easily understandable for readers. He is also a talented editor of other attorneys' writing. He can quickly synthesize the central issues in complex briefs, improving drafts by eliminating unnecessary material and sharpening the analysis. His approach to writing leads us to believe that he would give any litigants appearing before him fair consideration of all their arguments and a clear decision on the issues before him.

We have also observed Mr. West remain measured and respectful in contentious proceedings. He is careful to engage constructively with all the arguments in cases he handles. He gave all opposing arguments serious consideration, even when he strongly disagreed with them, and exercised good judgment about what issues to contest and to concede in difficult cases. His calm and respectful approach to litigation has served him well representing parties in cases and would be the approach needed by a district judge in handling cases before him.

Based on our firsthand experience with Mr. West, we believe that his legal judgment and experience, work ethic, and temperament would serve him well as a district judge. Accordingly, we urge the Committee to support his nomination and confirm him to the bench.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Cleveland
Deputy Solicitor General, 2022–2023
Assistant Solicitor General, 2019–2022

Ellen Carr
Assistant Solicitor General, 2024–2026

Will Flanagan
Assistant Solicitor General, 2022–present

Mithun Mansinghani
Solicitor General, 2017–2022

Kyle Pepler
Assistant Solicitor General, 2022–2025

Audrey Weaver
Assistant Solicitor General, 2022–2024

Randall Yates
Assistant Solicitor General, 2017–2021