

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Nomination of Robert E. Wier to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky*

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The attorneys joining this letter are legal practitioners from across Kentucky who collectively have known Judge Wier for years. We write to express our strong support for the confirmation of The Honorable Robert E. Wier to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. In the over eleven years Judge Wier has served as a Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Judge Wier has demonstrated that he possesses the attributes of an outstanding jurist: being prepared, diligent, fair-minded and intelligent.

As a law student and a practitioner Judge Wier displayed the same attributes that have made him an outstanding Magistrate Judge. Judge Wier was raised in Appalachia in Harlan County, Kentucky and left the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to attend the University of Kentucky and the University of Kentucky College of Law. Judge Wier was not only Editor in Chief of the Kentucky Law Journal, but was also first in his law school graduating class. After clerking for Judge Eugene Siler of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Judge Wier entered private practice at Stoll Keenon & Park in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1996, he founded Ransdell, Roach & Wier with two friends from law school. For the next ten years, Judge Wier practiced extensively in commercial litigation and employment law. Although he represented both employers and employees, most of his employment law practice consisted of representing employees. Judge Wier participated in ten jury trials during this time and most of these trials concerned employment discrimination claims where Judge Wier represented employees. While practicing employment law, Judge Wier also practiced commercial litigation in state and federal court throughout Kentucky, earning a stellar reputation among members of the Kentucky Bar for his advocacy, knowledge and integrity.

On the bench, Judge Wier has maintained an excellent reputation among the advocates that appear before him for his impressive work ethic, preparation, and understanding of the legal

issues before him. In keeping with his impressive academic credentials, Judge Wier remains an active student of the law and is known for his in-depth understanding of the authorities and precedents that guide his evaluation of cases and shape his judgments. In keeping with the extraordinary work ethic for which he was known both in law school and private practice, Judge Wier has efficiently managed the criminal and civil dockets of numerous United States District Judges in the Eastern District of Kentucky since 2006. With these known and established qualities, the elevation of Judge Wier as an Article III District Judge will have the dual effect of maintaining the high standards for judicial leadership long-established in the Eastern District of Kentucky and insuring that those subject to the authority of our judicial system will be provided a fair and just outcome. Outside of the courtroom, Judge Wier has committed himself to the advancement of the practice of law for federal practitioners, speaking at many continuing education seminars about substantive law and having a successful federal court practice.

Judge Wier's reputation as an unbiased and professional jurist, his commitment to the pursuit of justice and public service and his respect for others unconditionally qualify him as an exceptional candidate for the position to which he has been nominated. For all of these reasons, we enthusiastically support the nomination of Judge Robert E. Wier to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky and urge you to support his nomination. It is our hope that the Senate will confirm Judge Wier expeditiously.

Sincerely,

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