

February 17, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for John Cruden's nomination to become Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of the Department of Justice.

The undersigned are professors of environmental law who recognize the importance of continuing the ENRD's long tradition of even-handed enforcement and defense of our nation's environmental and natural resources laws. We strongly believe that John Cruden is a superb choice to fulfill this role.

Mr. Cruden has devoted nearly his entire working life to public service, including a distinguished career in the military and two decades of service in the very Justice Department division that he has been nominated to lead. Following his graduation from West Point, John served in airborne, ranger and Special Forces units in Germany and Vietnam. After graduating from law school, he served as legal counsel to the military for 14 years in a variety of positions including General Counsel to the Defense Nuclear Agency and Chief Legislative Counsel of the Army.

Mr. Cruden's more than twenty years of experience at the ENRD make him superbly qualified to lead the division. During his service as Chief of the Environmental Enforcement Section and as the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Cruden played a leading role in nearly every major environmental case handled by the ENRD. He acquired a reputation as a "lawyer's lawyer" who represented the interests of the United States with enormous skill and unfailing fairness.

Mr. Cruden has distinguished himself in virtually everything he has done. For his military service Mr. Cruden was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. For his service in the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. Cruden received the Presidential Rank Award from three different Presidents, the Department's Muskie-Chaffee Award, the Federal Bar Association's Younger Award, and the American Bar Association's Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service. In addition Mr. Cruden was the first government attorney to be elected and serve as president of the D.C. Bar.

In his current position as president of the Environmental Law Institute, Mr. Cruden has worked tirelessly to improve understanding of environmental law and policy and to bring diverse groups together.

Those of us who have worked directly with John feel privileged to have been able to collaborate with him. All of us know of his outstanding reputation and we are confident that, if confirmed, he again will serve the United States with the greatest distinction. We endorse his nomination with the utmost enthusiasm.

For all of these reasons we urge the Senate to confirm John Cruden to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the ENRD.

Sincerely,



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