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February 18, 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 Minority 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 strong support for John Cruden's nomination to become Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice.

The undersigned include the current chair and past chairs of the American Bar Association ("ABA") Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources ("SEER"). We are a diverse group of lawyers who come from private practice, academic institutions, government service and non-governmental organizations. For many of us our professional association with John includes handling matters on behalf of clients, as well as working for the profession through the ABA.

Our support represents our personal endorsement and not that of the ABA. However, we all know and have worked with Mr. Cruden throughout his distinguished service to our organization. SEER has some 10,000 members who enjoy member benefits of educational programming, publications and outreach to lawyers and society. Mr. Cruden was chair of SEER for 2009-2010. All of us hold him in the very highest regard, and admire his leadership skills, his ability to work with people in a positive way, his integrity, his exceptional intellect, and his superb legal judgment.

Mr. Cruden is uniquely qualified for this position. He is currently the President of the well-respected Environmental Law Institute ("ELI"), a nationally recognized non-profit association that provides research, education, and publications in the area of environmental law and policy. Prior to his career at ELI, he had a distinguished career with the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice, holding several leadership positions, including Deputy Assistant Attorney General for 16 years and Chief of Environmental Enforcement for five years. He has also served as Acting Assistant Attorney General. During his career at the Department of Justice he was known by environment and resource lawyers as hard working as well as fair and even-handed with a keen sense of the true meaning of "justice." He encouraged government lawyers at all levels to better themselves by associating with lawyers

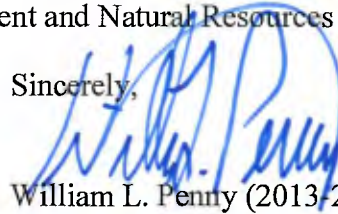
in the both the D.C. Bar Association, where he was a past president, and in SEER. We can assure you that Mr. Cruden's leadership in SEER has provided substantial benefit to all lawyers practicing in the area of environment and natural resources.

As chair of SEER, Mr. Cruden led a number of initiatives. These initiatives included recognition of distinguished environmental advocates and focus on environmental justice initiatives. In addition, he brought more awareness of environmental and resource issues through his highly acclaimed speaking roles and participation in SEER educational programs.

We believe that now more than ever Mr. Cruden's skills are needed at the Department of Justice. Certainly, protection of our environment and natural resources cannot be overstated; however, having the right person to lead this important Division of the Justice Department will provide a legacy of environmental protection into the future. Mr. Cruden's leadership skills allow him to balance strong environmental enforcement with the rights of the regulated community.

For all these reasons we hope that the Senate will confirm Mr. Cruden promptly to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Sincerely,



William L. Penny (2013-2014)

Stites and Harbison, PLLC

Section Chair

bill.penny@stites.com

PAST SECTION CHAIRS:

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Association of Clean Water
Administrators
adunn@acwa-us.org

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The University of Montana
irma.russell@umontana.edu

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Balch & Bingham LLP
smckinney@balch.com

Claudia Rast
Butzel Long
rast@butzel.com

Lee A. DeHihns, III
Alston & Bird LLP
lee.dehahns@alston.com

Lauren James Caster
Fennemore Craig, P.C.
lcaster@fclaw.com

Lynn L. Bergeson
Bergeson & Campbell, P.C.
lbergeson@lawbc.com

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Columbia Law School
michael.gerrard@law.columbia.edu

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kwarren@warrenglasslaw.com

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esmary@wnj.com

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sshollis@duanemorris.com

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tgarrett@cov.com

Parthenia B. Evans
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PEvans@stinson.com

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gknapp@windcapitalgroup.com

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kg@kgstrategies.com

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jlowe@smu.edu

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rstoll@foley.com

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afield@hunton.com

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erenwick@hanmor.com