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February 24, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 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:

I respectfully recommend that John C. Cruden be confirmed as the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

I have known John since 1979 when he was a litigation attorney in the Pentagon. He was the most impressive officer-attorney I met then and has continued to be absolutely superb, first as an Army attorney and then as a leader at the Department of Justice.

John and I were assigned to Germany at the same time in mid-1980s where I observed first-hand not only his inestimable legal skills but also his leader and interpersonal skills. John was available to all—peers, younger lawyers, and superiors, though he had no peers and clearly was destined to surpass all his superiors. He is one of a kind—superior intellect, unsurpassed work ethic, completely dedicated to service to the nation, and a warm, caring human being.

Please do not hesitate to contact me personally regarding this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Altenburg, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired