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The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter in support of Jennifer Rearden's nomination to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Since January 2009 I have been a professor of environmental law at Columbia Law School and founding director of what is now the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Before entering academia, I spent thirty years practicing environmental law in New York.

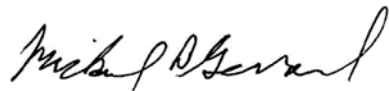
I first met Ms. Rearden around 2002, when I was still in full-time private practice. New York City was applying to host the 2012 Olympics, and as part of its application it sought to build an Olympic stadium over rail yards on the west side of Manhattan. The stadium would then become the home of the Jets football team. Many members of the nearby community were opposed to the stadium, as was Cablevision, the owner of Madison Square Garden. My law firm and Ms. Rearden's law firm were retained by Cablevision to institute litigation challenging the project. I worked closely with Ms. Rearden on this matter. The litigation raised environmental issues, principally involving the traffic that would be generated by the stadium and the associated air pollution and noise. I found Ms. Rearden to be very sensitive to these environmental issues and to the concerns of the community members who feared the stadium would degrade their neighborhood in a variety of ways. (Ultimately the 2012 Olympics went to London and the stadium was not built.)

I have subsequently worked with Ms. Rearden on a number of other environmental matters, all of them concerning proposed projects in New York City.

In all of our work together, I have found Ms. Rearden to be extremely smart and perceptive. She has the analytical skills and the calm, steady demeanor that one hopes for in a judge.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I hope the Committee and the Senate will consider the nomination of Jennifer Rearden promptly, and confirm her to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Gerrard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "G".

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