

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Vanita Gupta, Nominee for Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in strong support of Vanita Gupta to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice.

I am the former General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Koch Industries, Inc. Ms. Gupta is an exceptional lawyer, and among the most talented lawyers I have worked with during my career. A significant portion of my career has been devoted to advocating for reforms of our country's criminal justice system. I have worked with organizations that Ms. Gupta has led and her approach to reform and justice is similar to what I have advocated for, including a system focused on equal rights, equal justice, community safety, redemption, rehabilitation, and restoration. I have the utmost respect for Ms. Gupta and her commitment to making our system fair and just for everyone.

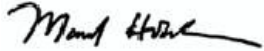
In particular, the organizations that I led worked with Ms. Gupta when she was with the ACLU. We worked together on 6th Amendment issues, cash bail reform, fair sentencing, prison reform, and reentry programs. I respected and admired how Ms. Gupta was not ideologically driven, but instead was principled and solutions-oriented. She relied on empirical data, and scrupulously analyzed how the law applied to various populations encountering the criminal justice system. Moreover, she worked incredibly hard to find solutions where some saw none.

I believe strongly that Ms. Gupta will be a dedicated and effective Associate Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Gupta is a principled leader who seeks to find common ground and will work with anyone committed to making the system better and more effective. Ms. Gupta will honor and respect the duty trusted to her should she be confirmed as the Associate Attorney General.

I have every confidence that Ms. Gupta will serve with dignity and integrity, therefore I am pleased to submit this letter on her behalf.

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to proceed with Ms. Gupta's nomination, and for the Senate to quickly confirm her.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark V. Holden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark V. Holden