

# 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

Judiciary Committee  
Chairman  
Resources Committee  
Vice-Chair  
Education Committee  
Vice-Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Select Committee on Legislative  
Ethics  
Joint Armed Services Committee



**Senator John Coghill**

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July 30, 2018

Via Mail & Email

The Honorable A. Mitchell McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington,  
D.C. 20510  
[senator@mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:senator@mcconnell.senate.gov)

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington,  
D.C. 20510  
[senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov)

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
United States Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington,  
D.C. 20510  
[chuck\\_grassley@grassley.senate.gov](mailto:chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Judiciary Committee  
331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington,  
D.C. 20510  
[senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)

Re: Nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Grassley, and Feinstein:

As Alaska State Senate Judiciary Chair, I urge the United States Senate to hold a hearing on and confirm the nomination of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh.

I believe that adherence to our Constitution, and our Founders' intent, is important for the stability of the United States.

Many believe that Judge Kavanaugh possesses similar characteristics of Justice Scalia.

My support for Judge Kavanaugh is based on the following:

1. Judges should understand that the judicial branch interprets the law. Making the law is the sole purview of the legislative branch.
2. Judges should read the words of a statute as written.
3. Judges should read the text of the Constitution as written, mindful of history and tradition.
4. Judges should not make up new constitutional rights that are not in the text of the Constitution.

Letter from Alaska State Senator John Coghill

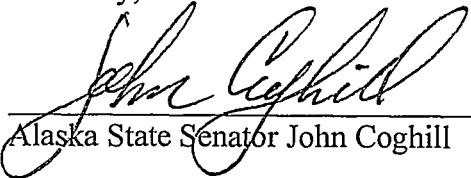
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5. Judges should not shy away from enforcing constitutional rights that are in the text of the Constitution.
6. Judges should understand that changing the Constitution is in the amendment process. Policy changes within constitutional bounds is for legislatures.
7. Judges should remember that separation of powers and federalism are not mere matters of etiquette, but are essential to protecting individual liberty as the individual rights guaranteed in the Constitution's text.
8. Judges must remember that courts have a critical role: When a party has standing, there must be enforcement of separation of powers. There must be federal limits.

I strongly urge all Senators to support the prompt confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Alaska State Senator John Coghill

cc: President Donald J. Trump  
Vice President Michael R. Pence  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young