

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate Washington D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate Washington D.C. 20510

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

RE: Support for Ketanji Brown Jackson, nominee for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Resources Legacy Fund, a nonprofit organization devoted to securing a just and resilient world for people and nature, I strongly urge you to support President Biden's historic nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as Supreme Court Justice.

Resources Legacy Fund has never before publicly endorsed a nominee for the nation's highest court. So, why do we feel compelled to urge you to support and swiftly confirm Judge Brown Jackson? As an organization principally devoted to accelerating positive change on the urgent environmental challenges we face, we know that the most just, equitable, and durable solutions align with meaningful participation of diverse communities impacted by our work. The diverse perspectives that enrich our organization and embody our strategic partnerships are essential drivers of our successes for people and planet.

The deliberations of the nation's highest court, charged with ensuring equal justice under law, also benefit from voices that reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of our great nation. Judge Brown Jackson is a superbly qualified nominee and will uphold the rule of law and the values embodied in our Constitution and, if confirmed, join a Supreme Court that better reflects the people it serves.

Judge Brown Jackson has already been confirmed multiple times on a bipartisan vote. Having served as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and now on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge Brown Jackson has extensive judicial experience. She also served as a federal public defender, and would be the first Supreme Court Justice with those credentials and professional experiences.

Since its establishment in 1789, the United States Supreme Court has had 115 Justices, of which 108 have been white men. Only two Black men and five women have been confirmed to serve as Supreme Court justices, and of those five women only one has been a woman of color. That our Supreme Court has historically failed to reflect the diversity of our nation is a gross understatement, and a reality that can undermine public confidence in the Court's

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rulings. The relative homogeneity of life experiences and perspectives represented on the Court also impacts the ultimate fairness and impartiality of judicial outcomes.

The Supreme Court, as the guardian and interpreter of the Constitution, will address significant questions that impact environmental issues, including legal authorities for combatting our climate crisis, protecting our nation's waters, and conserving our wild spaces. But we do not urge you to support Judge Brown Jackson's nomination only because of Resource Legacy Fund's work to strengthen equitable outcomes for communities, lands, and waters facing myriad threats, and Judge Brown Jackson's judicial record of deciding similar matters before her with fair-mindedness and respect for precedent. We do so because of a firm belief that our nation's greatest strengths lie in the diversity of our people and of our governing institutions.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is a person of the highest caliber, character, intellect, and integrity, and we urge you to confirm her to the Supreme Court without delay.

Sincerely,

Avi Garbow

President, Resources Legacy Fund