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The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Grassley:

I write this letter in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch for Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Gorsuch has been known to me professionally for over twenty years, and his family even longer. In the mid-nineties, we were counsel together in successfully representing co-defendants in a major securities matter involving class action and derivative lawsuits in several jurisdictions across the country as well as SEC and Congressional investigations. Over the course of that complex representation in the following years, I came to observe first-hand his considerable lawyering skills, intellect, judgment and temperament. He was one of the finest trial lawyers with whom it has been my pleasure to be associated in my career. We also became personal and good friends which continued during the following years at his firm, later during his time at the Department of Justice and since returning to Denver to serve on the bench.

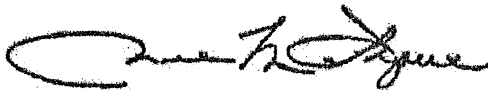
I was delighted by his appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit based here in Denver. (He honored me by having me be one of two lawyers to introduce him to the court at his formal investiture.) Over his years of service on that court, he has distinguished himself with his work ethic, keen and thorough understanding of the case under review, his formidable analytical ability, and the clarity of his opinions. I have read many of his opinions and watched him in oral argument. He is engaging, courteous to counsel and demonstrates a full and unusual appreciation for the human impact of his decisions on the people involved. These are the qualities of an outstanding jurist.

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Judge Gorsuch has been active and an important voice in the legal community and academy. He has written extensively, lectured and taught in continuing legal education seminars and served on the important federal Rules Committee, among others. He also has found time to sit on student moot courts and teach both ethics and federal jurisdiction at the University of Colorado Law School. He is regularly regarded by his students as one of their very best law professors-- effective, challenging and personable.

Judge Gorsuch's intellect, energy and deep regard for the Constitution are well known to those of us who have worked with him and have seen first-hand his commitment to basic principles. Above all, his independence, fairness and impartiality are the hallmarks of his career and his well-earned reputation.

Sincerely,



James M. Lyons

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
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