

June 26, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: In Support of the Nomination of Jeffrey B. Clark

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Jeffrey Clark to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (“ENRD”) in the Department of Justice. All of the below have led that Division at earlier points in our careers and most of us have worked with Jeff either at the Justice Department or in private practice or both. Given both our familiarity with the position’s demands and our familiarity with Jeff, we are confident Jeff has the combination of substantive experience, legal knowledge, leadership capacity and sound judgment to successfully lead the Division. Most importantly, Jeff has a firm appreciation for the critical role that the ENRD’s attorneys play in vindicating the interests of the United States under the more than 150 environmental laws for which the Division is responsible. We note, in particular, that Jeff’s well-rounded background and prior experience in the Division and private practice has prepared him well for the wide-variety of areas that the Division lawyers are responsible for, ranging from affirmative civil and criminal enforcement, to defending federal agency actions, to federal land condemnation activity, to tribal matters -- all of this occurring at both the trial and appellate levels.

A graduate of Harvard College and the Georgetown University Law School, with an M.A. degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware, Jeff has a distinguished academic record that he has built on in both public service and private practice. He clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit for Judge Daniel Boggs. After beginning his career in private practice, he again entered public service as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in ENRD where he had direct responsibility for supervising the Appellate and Indian Resources Sections and where he also served a broader role in leading the overall management effort of the Division. He then returned to private practice where he has become an acknowledged expert in administrative law and the issues associated with regulatory process, another key area for ENRD given its frequent role in defending federal agencies. His clients in private practice have valued Jeff’s excellent counsel and zealous advocacy, the same counsel and zealousness he lent to his federal agency clients when at ENRD.

With his extensive experience in both government and private practice, and his strong commitment to honoring the rule of law, we harbor no doubts about his qualifications to lead the Environment and Natural Resources Division. We firmly recommend Jeff and urge the

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Committee's favorable consideration of his nomination, as well as urge the full United States Senate to confirm Jeff to be Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Respectfully,



Ronald Tenpas
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (2007-2009)
United States Attorney
Southern District of Illinois (2003-2005)

Kelly Johnson
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (2005)

Thomas Sansonetti
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (2001-2005)
Solicitor
Department of Interior (1990-1993)

Vicki O'Meara
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (1992-1993)

Barry Hartman
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (1991-1992)

Roger Marzulla
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (1987-1989)
Deputy Assistant Attorney General (1985-1987)
Special Litigation Counsel (1983-1985)

Carol Dinkins
Deputy Attorney General (1984-85)
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division (1981-83)