

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2018

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

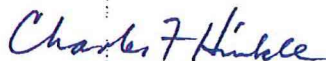
We write with regard to the nomination of Ryan Bounds of Portland, Oregon, for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. We both have served in the leadership of the Oregon Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society and interacted with Mr. Bounds at ACS events over the years. We write today personally and not on behalf of ACS.

As you may know, ACS's mission is to advance a progressive vision of our Constitution and laws with the aim of improving the lives of all people. As affirmed in its mission statement, ACS embraces the progress our nation has made toward the full embodiment of the Constitution's core values. Our Oregon Lawyer Chapter, to that end, regularly hosted events at which both local and national experts spoke to the need for progressive values in law and government and to the means of implementing those values.

Though he may not personally share all the views at the heart of ACS's mission, Mr. Bounds has been a consistent, thoughtful, and welcome presence at these events. He has also repeatedly advocated for the local ACS and Federalist Society chapters to jointly sponsor debates on numerous important legal issues of the day. His contributions at these events were respectful, highly academic, and always for the purpose of engaging in honest dialogue.

Neither of us imagines that Mr. Bounds — or any other nominee of this administration — would be the staunchest ally of progressive causes on the bench. But we know from observation that he has a track record of engaging with progressive perspectives. Indeed, he has a demonstrated history of seeking them out. Such open-mindedness is too often in short supply in our increasingly polarized era. The judiciary is where it is needed most of all.

Sincerely,



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