



SIERRA CLUB

February 6, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 2.7 million members and supporters, I write to strongly oppose President Trump's pending nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court of the United States. As members of the highest court in the country, Supreme Court Justices must be fair, even-handed, and uphold the sanctity of our environmental laws and Constitution before their own personal ideology. Unfortunately, Judge Gorsuch doesn't meet that standard and must be rejected.

Judge Gorsuch's record shows that he disfavors public interest litigation and will limit the access of everyday Americans to the courts. His stance against the well-established Chevron doctrine will prevent agencies like the United States Environmental Protection Agency from fulfilling their mission to protect our air, water, and health. This is a dangerous view that will favor polluters and industry over the rights of the people.

Justices have the final say on cases that shape every facet of our daily lives, from landmark environmental protections such as the Clean Power Plan, to civil liberty protections such as the Voting Rights Act, to basic rights like allowing women to control their bodies with *Roe v. Wade*. Judge Gorsuch's record of extreme positions proves he is far too outside of the mainstream for this critically important position. As an example, Judge Gorsuch ruled in *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. v. Sebelius* that corporations are persons and should not be required to pay for contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

We can't let our Supreme Court further open the door to big polluters, corporate interests and attacks on women's and human rights. For decades, concerned community members have rallied, signed official public comments, testified in public hearings, and fought to expand protections for our environment. An extreme conservative like Judge Gorsuch could undermine the ability of grassroots activists to have a say, undoing everything we've worked so hard to protect.

In order to protect our environment, we must protect our democracy. That means having three functioning branches of government where the people's interests are represented. Judge

Gorsuch has proven through his record that he is willing to limit access to the courts, a dangerous view that will only embolden polluters and hamper citizens when they try to protect their communities.

I urge you to reject Judge Neil Gorsuch for the Supreme Court of the United States

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Brune". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Brune
Executive Director