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

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

16 March 2015

Regarding: Acting Deputy Attorney General Sally O. Yates

Chuck
Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

Patrick
I am very pleased to recommend to you and to the Senate Judiciary Committee the confirmation of Acting Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) Sally O. Yates for that distinguished position.

I first met Ms. Yates in 1990 when the Attorney General detailed me to the Northern District of Georgia (Northern District) to investigate the bombing murders of Eleventh Circuit Judge Robert Vance and NAACP leader Robbie Robinson. Ms. Yates was then a very highly-regarded Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in that office, with a solid reputation for conducting fair and effective investigations and prosecutions, particularly in the public corruption area. After returning to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1993, I worked closely with Ms. Yates as she led the investigation and later prosecution of Eric Rudolph for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic bombing and Birmingham health clinic murders. Throughout that long and difficult case, Ms. Yates was commended for the extraordinary care which she showed to the family of the victim killed in the Olympic Park attack.

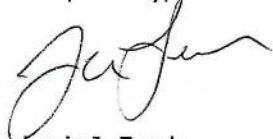
As FBI Director, I was very pleased to honor Ms. Yates individually for her excellent and dedicated service to the Department of Justice (Department) in that matter. In addition to the Rudolph case, and later obtaining convictions in her public corruption case against former Atlanta Mayor Campbell, Ms. Yates has amassed an impressive record of achievement as a federal prosecutor for over 26 years, both as a 'line Assistant' and as United States Attorney (USA).

A critical factor which makes Ms. Yates exceedingly qualified for Deputy Attorney General is her long career and success in the Department. First hired as an Assistant in the Northern District by USA Bob Barr, a Republican appointee, she served continuously under USAs Larry Thompson (Republican appointee) and Kent Alexander (Democrat appointee). Ms. Yates was made the First Assistant by USA Bill Duffy, and was continued in that position by USA Dave Nahmias (Republican appointee), before becoming USA herself after nomination by President Obama. For Ms. Yates to have progressed and been consistently promoted from line Assistant to USA, and most recently to Acting DAG, the highest operational office in the Department, and to have done so without any political involvement or affiliation, is a great testament to her independence and professionalism. I know that she will continue this long commitment as DAG.

In preparation for writing this letter, I personally consulted with a very senior FBI official, a former federal prosecutor and defense attorney in the Northern District, and a sitting judge. The FBI official, who has worked personally with Ms. Yates, commended her for her leadership, attention to case detail, political independence, and for an excellent reputation among the local, state and federal law enforcement stakeholders in the Northern District. The former AUSA and defense lawyer praised Ms. Yates for her uncompromising integrity, superb work ethic, political independence, leadership and strong sense of public service. He further noted that Ms. Yates is highly regarded by the judges and defense bar in the Northern District as a result of her 26 years service in the USA's office. The sitting judge described Ms. Yates as 'fearless' in her pursuit of public corruption cases, and a prosecutor who has always been politically independent, with an extraordinarily positive reputation among the defense bar in the Northern District.

I know Ms. Yates personally to be a highly-skilled and dedicated public servant who has devoted her entire career to the Department and the pursuit of justice. I have worked with her closely and can attest to her outstanding work ethic, absolute fairness, leadership and the highest integrity. I am certain that she will be a Deputy Attorney General of whom we will all be very proud. I am pleased to give her my highest personal and professional recommendation.

Respectfully,



Louis J. Freeh
Chairman Emeritus
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