GERALD W. VANDE WALLE
Former Chief Justice
North Dakota Supreme Court

May 29, 2026

Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
United States Senator

Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
United States Senator

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Durbin:

I write in support of the nomination of the Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. I have known Judge Traynor for more than three decades, dating back to his time as my law clerk early in his legal career. Throughout that time, I have had the opportunity to observe his development as a lawyer and jurist.

In my view, Judge Traynor is well qualified for this position. His record reflects a consistent commitment to the rule of law and to the fair administration of justice. He approaches his work thoughtfully and with a clear understanding of the role of the judiciary.

Judge Traynor also possesses an even temperament, which is an essential quality for service on the federal bench. He is measured, respectful, and deliberate in his approach. When applying the law, he follows it as required, and where interpretation is necessary, he exercises sound judgment grounded in principle.

Based on my longstanding familiarity with his work and character, I believe Judge Traynor would serve with distinction on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I respectfully urge the Committee to give his nomination favorable consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Gerald W. Vande Walle
Former Chief Justice
North Dakota Supreme Court