

November 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Gordon P. Gallagher, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

President Biden has nominated U.S. Magistrate Judge Gordon Gallagher to serve as a federal district court judge for the District of Colorado. The undersigned have served as elected district attorneys and elected sheriffs in Judge Gallagher's home county over the past four decades. As both Republicans and Democrats, we wholeheartedly endorse the selection of Judge Gallagher and urge you to confirm his appointment.

The breadth of background brought by Judge Gallagher is striking. He spent years as a Deputy District Attorney for the 21st Judicial District in Mesa County, and then spent decades building a criminal defense practice. Since 2012, Judge Gallagher has served as a well-respected magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. He was unanimously re-appointed to the position in 2016 and 2020.

Judge Gallagher is an outstanding selection for this vacancy. He brings both demonstrated judicial independence and a thorough understanding of criminal law and public safety. His career has encompassed individual representation of under-served clients, as well as public service for the people of the community. His years in prosecution were marked by twin passions for justice and public safety.

Judge Gallagher has a well-earned reputation as an excellent jurist. He is hard-working, thoughtful, and exceptionally well qualified to serve as a federal district court judge for the District Court of Colorado. Having a federal district court judge in Western Colorado enhances the ability of Western Slope practitioners to take federal civil cases.

Judge Gallagher has also worked to address broader issues in our judicial system. He served on the Grand Valley Task Force's criminal justice working group to address systemic bias in the community. And he provided rehabilitative resources for the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes.

If confirmed to the court, Judge Gallagher would bring balance to the bench, as the only district court judge from Western Colorado and one of very few to have ever served from this part of the state. It is ironic that the area of the state west of the Continental Divide, which is so often what people think of when they envision Colorado, has been so underrepresented on the federal bench. Judge Gallagher embodies the values of this part of America: hard work, individual accomplishment, fairness, and a commitment to community service.

In their letter to President Biden, recommending the appointment of Judge Gallagher, Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper succinctly captured the essence of this nominee; that he possesses the "compassion, intellect, and temperament" that would make him an excellent jurist to serve the citizens of Colorado with integrity. We endorse the view of your Senate colleagues wholeheartedly.

Of course, as Republicans and Democrats, the undersigned disagree about a number of public issues. But on this there is universal agreement: Judge Gordon Gallagher will be an outstanding addition to the federal judiciary. We heartily endorse his nomination, and would appreciate your favorable consideration as you evaluate his qualifications for this important position.

Respectfully,



Daniel P. Rubinstein
District Attorney (R)
21st Judicial District



Todd Rowell
Sheriff, Mesa County
21st Judicial District



Terrance L. Farina
Former District Attorney (D)
21st Judicial District



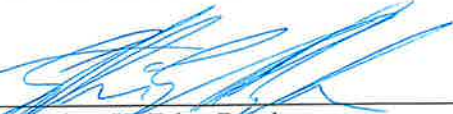
Riecke Claussen
Former Sheriff, Mesa County



William Kain
Former District Attorney (R)
21st Judicial District



Stan Hilkey
Former Sheriff, Mesa County



Stephen K. ErkenBrack
Former District Attorney (R)
21st Judicial District



Matt Lewis
Former Sheriff, Mesa County

cc: Senator Michael F. Bennet
Senator John W. Hickenlooper