



March 16, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As Governors, we applaud President Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and urge the Senate to swiftly confirm his appointment. Our request is not grounded in policy preferences or party affiliation. Rather, this request reflects our commitment as governors to uphold the Constitution and defend the rule of law.

The third branch of government serves a vital role in our country: to safeguard our liberties against unlawful infringement by the government. Judges are vital to ensuring the separation of powers, both horizontally, between the three branches, and vertically, between the federal government, the states and the people. All too often lately, we have seen judges across this country use their power to impose the preferences of a few in black robes on the will of the many. It's time to remember that that's not how things work in America. In this country, power flows from the people to the government, not the other way around.

Judge Gorsuch brings a sterling resume that is worthy of our nation's highest court. He received his bachelor of arts from Columbia University, his juris doctorate from Harvard University, and his doctorate in philosophy of law from Oxford University. After obtaining his law degree, Judge Gorsuch clerked for Judge David Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Justices Byron White and Anthony Kennedy of the Supreme Court. Following his clerkships, he was an associate and partner at the law firm of Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, PLLC, and served as Principal Deputy to Associate Attorney General Robert McCallum at the U.S. Department of Justice.

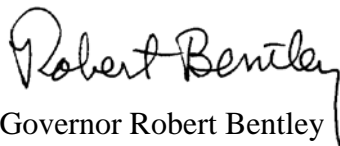
Judge Gorsuch was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit by George W. Bush in 2006 and confirmed by the Senate in a voice vote. In his decade of service on the Tenth Circuit, Judge Neil Gorsuch has proven himself to be a jurist that can resist the temptation of “black robe syndrome.” He will be a Justice that says what the law is, not what the law should be, for he understands that the former is the role of a judge, and the latter is the role of the people, through the Congress. To abuse the role of a judge is to deprive the people of the right to govern themselves, and to chip away at the bedrock of our democracy.

Justice Scalia was a legendary legal scholar and jurist whose influence upon the judiciary and our nation cannot be understated. While irreplaceable in stature, we can follow Justice Scalia’s lead through your prompt confirmation of a Justice who believes that we protect freedom when we adhere to the structure of government prescribed by our Constitution. Judge Gorsuch will be a Justice who shares Justice Scalia’s unrelenting commitment to originalism and textualism, and a model of deep intellect, unwavering integrity, and faithfulness to the law. Judge Gorsuch will be a leader on the Court for years to come.

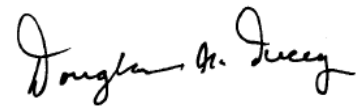
Sincerely,



Governor Scott Walker
Wisconsin



Governor Robert Bentley
Alabama



Governor Douglas A. Ducey
Arizona



Governor Asa Hutchinson
Arkansas



Governor Rick Scott
Florida



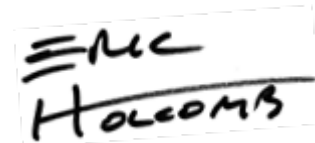
Governor Nathan Deal
Georgia



Governor Edward J. Baza Calvo
Guam



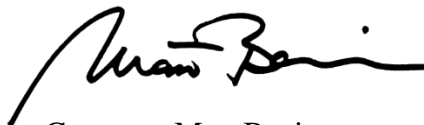
Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter
Idaho



Governor Eric Holcomb
Indiana



Governor Sam Brownback
Kansas



Governor Matt Bevin
Kentucky



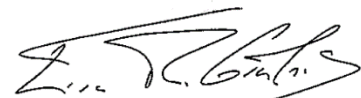
Governor Paul R. LePage
Maine




Governor Rick Snyder
Michigan




Governor Phil Bryant
Mississippi




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Missouri




Governor Pete Ricketts
Nebraska




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South Carolina




Governor Dennis Daugaard
South Dakota




Governor Bill Haslam
Tennessee



Governor Greg Abbott
Texas



Governor Gary R. Herbert
Utah



Governor Matthew H. Mead
Wyoming

cc: Chairman Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510