

March 28, 2017

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

As current and retired Montana judges, we are heartened by President Trump's choice of Neil Gorsuch as our next Justice on the Supreme Court.


Judge Gorsuch will provide valuable insight and perspective from the Western states on a Supreme Court that is dominated by Justices hailing from the Eastern seaboard. He's not only established as a fair and impartial judge with an intimidating academic and professional background, he's also a Westerner who embraces the ideals and vision of more than half of the country that remains unrepresented on the Court. In fact, Judge Gorsuch admitted to preferring dry flies to wet flies during the lengthy confirmation hearings, and that's an opinion all Montanans can respect.

During Judge Gorsuch's ten years on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, he has established a proven track record of respecting the sovereignty of states in conducting their own affairs, and of respecting both the Constitution and the framer's intent behind it. Judge Gorsuch's thoughtful, articulate opinions consistently demonstrate his belief in the intrinsic value of human life, as well as his staunch support for religious freedom and freedom of speech.

Even though the confirmation process has become highly political, Judge Gorsuch has demonstrated throughout the hearings that he is anything but a judicial activist. Judge Gorsuch's response to Senator Al Franken's comments disapproving of judges who uphold corporate arbitration could not have been clearer – Judge Gorsuch has no intent to legislate from the bench. If lawmakers are unhappy with the way courts are interpreting the laws, the lawmakers can change the law. It is not within the judiciary's purview to legislate on their behalf, and Judge Gorsuch will continue apply the law as written.

In an era of government overreach, placing individuals on our highest court who will interpret our founding document as the founders intended it to be interpreted is imperative to ensuring a lasting protection of state sovereignty and individual liberties. While there has never been a Supreme Court candidate from Montana, Judge Gorsuch, a fourth-generation Coloradan, understands individualism and the entrepreneurial, pioneer spirit that has defined the Western half of the nation. Judge Gorsuch would be a close substitute for a Montanan as Justice.

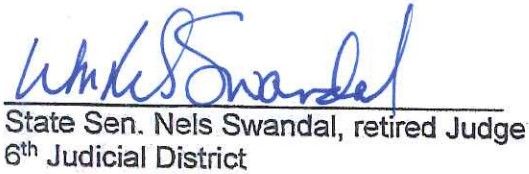
Judge Gorsuch is more than qualified to fill the ninth seat on the United States Supreme Court, and we are confident that he will uphold the lofty burden of administering justice faithfully and impartially.



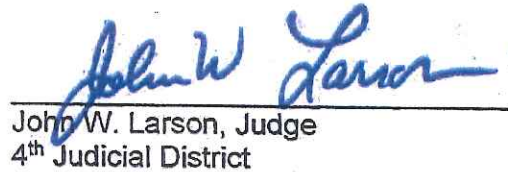
Russell C. Fagg, Judge
13th Judicial District



Jeffrey H. Langton, Judge
21st Judicial District



State Sen. Nels Swandal, retired Judge
6th Judicial District



John W. Larson, Judge
4th Judicial District