

# FORT PECK TRIBES

Assiniboine & Sioux

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester and Senator Daines:

As Chairman of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, I write to express the Tribes' support for the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to serve on the United States Supreme Court. In doing so, the Fort Peck Tribes join a number of other tribes and tribal organizations from across the country, including the Fort Belknap Tribes and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana.

Certainly, Judge Gorsuch's academic and professional career matches any recent nominee to the Supreme Court. But our support for Judge Gorsuch is based on our understanding of his service on the federal judiciary. We believe that Judge Gorsuch's judicial record demonstrates a good understanding of Federal Indian law, including the status of tribes as governments. Furthermore, we believe his rulings on the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit reflect Judge Gorsuch's respect for the unique cultural and religious heritage that we strive to protect every day.

Thus, while no good judge can tell you how he would rule on a matter before he has had a case presented to him, we believe that Judge Gorsuch is well qualified and has an understanding of Federal Indian law that will serve Tribes and the United States well if he is confirmed as the next Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,



Floyd Azure, Chairman  
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes