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Attorney General

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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October 17, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman – U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member – U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

I am writing this letter in support of President Trump's nominations of Kyle Duncan and Kurt Engelhardt to the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

As the Attorney General of Louisiana and a former Member of Congress, I know all too well the necessity for competent jurists on our federal courts who are committed to justice. We need judges who respect the separation of powers and embrace the Legislative Branch's co-equal status. That is why I ask you to please confirm Mr. Duncan and Chief Judge Engelhardt.

The Fifth Circuit plays a significant role in cases involving issues of great importance to Louisiana citizens – including, but not limited to: management of our prisons, voting rights and redistricting matters, abortion legislation, capital cases, and a variety of other legal disputes involving executive overreach. Mr. Duncan and Chief Judge Engelhardt will respect the important role states play in our republic and apply the law in an unbiased, constitutionally-sound manner.

Mr. Duncan is a Louisiana native who has served our State and its people with distinction. Mr. Duncan's vast experience in complex constitutional cases – both civil and criminal – highlights his professionalism, intelligence, personal integrity, and commitment to preserving the principles upon which our great nation was founded. His career in private practice, at the attorneys general's offices, and in the appellate courts have more than prepared Mr. Duncan for this appointment.

Like Mr. Duncan, Chief Judge Engelhardt is a Louisianan whose service to our State has been impeccable. Throughout his 16 years on the district court bench, Chief Judge Engelhardt has

established a track record of being an ethical and impartial reviewer of the law. His intellect, temperament, and character will be tremendous assets at the Fifth Circuit.

For Louisiana, I again ask you and your distinguished colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to support the President's nominations of Kyle Duncan and Kurt Engelhardt. Mr. Duncan and Chief Judge Engelhardt will adhere to the law, not attempt to override the Legislative Branch's intent.

If you have questions or need more information on my support for the Duncan-Engelhardt team, please feel free to contact me at 225-326-6705 or landryj@ag.louisiana.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General

cc: Senator Bill Cassidy
Senator John Kennedy