

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 15, 2018

Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

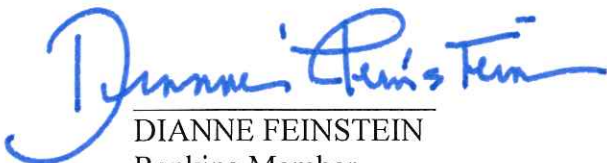
Dear Chairman Grassley:

As you know, the Senate is now in a month-long recess until November 13th, after the mid-term elections, with members in their home states. However, the Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hold two nominations hearings on October 17 and 24 with controversial nominees for the Fourth and the Ninth Circuits.

The Committee has never before held nominations hearings while the Senate is in recess before an election. The handful of nominations hearings that have been held during a recess have been with the minority's consent, which is not the case here – in fact, we were not even consulted. In addition, three of us on the Democratic side represent the Ninth Circuit, and are unable to return to Washington for a day due to commitments in our states.

We take our constitutional duty to vet nominees for lifetime appointments to the federal bench very seriously. An essential part of that vetting process is an opportunity to question nominees in a public hearing. Holding hearings during a recess, when members cannot attend, fails to meet our constitutional advice-and-consent obligations. We respectfully request these hearings be postponed until after the recess.

Sincerely,


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Ranking Member


PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



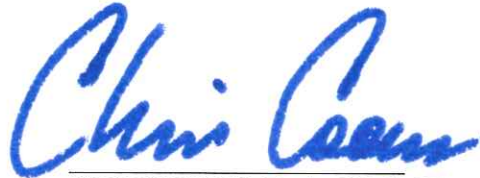
RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



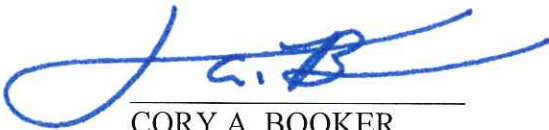
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
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RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS
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