

BARON P. HILL
9TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

**COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1409

WASHINGTON OFFICE
223 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5315

DISTRICT OFFICE
279 QUARTERMASTER COURT
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130
(812) 288-3999

DISTRICT OFFICE
320 WEST 8TH STREET, SUITE 114
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404
(812) 336-3000

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

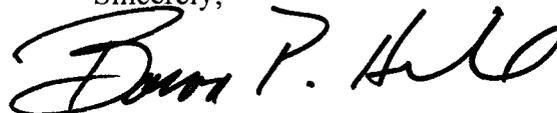
I write to you today in support of Dawn Johnsen as President Obama's nominee for Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel at the United States Department of Justice.

Dawn Johnsen is one of our nation's leading legal minds. She and her family currently live in Bloomington, Indiana, which is located within my Congressional District. Dawn has spent the last decade as a law professor at Indiana University there, where she continues to be a widely respected authority on many issues concerning the Constitution.

During my time in public service, I have come to know Dawn Johnsen and her family quite well. Not only do I consider her a personal friend, but I have also relied on her legal expertise when considering issues before Congress, most notably the debate in my district surrounding the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Her perspective brought to the discussion a critical legal opinion that focused not on individual views, but on individual civil rights as criteria for reaching a conclusion concerning this law. She is a consummate professional, and one I can count on to offer a sound legal opinion on issues regardless of her personal views and convictions.

I am honored to offer my recommendation for her appointment to the Department of Justice, and I respectfully urge her confirmation from the Committee on the Judiciary. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss Dawn's nomination further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 225-5315.

Sincerely,



Baron P. Hill
Member of Congress

Cc: Senate Judiciary Committee Members