

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2008

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Chairman Leahy:

We are writing today to respectfully urge you to schedule hearings for Robert Conrad and Steve Matthews, nominees to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Conrad was nominated on July 17, 2007, and Mr. Matthews was nominated on September 6, 2007. Together, they have been waiting more than 490 days for a hearing to be scheduled.

The Administrative Office of the Courts classifies the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals as a judicial emergency. The Fourth Circuit is in dire need of additional judges, as fully one-third of the Court is vacant. This negatively affects the administration of justice not only in North and South Carolina, but throughout the Fourth Circuit. Both Judge Conrad and Mr. Matthews have excellent reputations within the legal community and our full support as their home state senators. The citizens of the Fourth Circuit are at risk of having justice delayed by a strained and overworked Court of Appeals while these respected nominees await action by the Senate.

Both Judge Conrad and Mr. Matthews are accomplished legal professionals. Judge Conrad serves as the Chief Judge of the Western District of North Carolina, a position for which he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2005. Mr. Matthews has held several high-ranking positions in the United States Department of Justice and was the Managing Director of a large South Carolina law firm for many years. Once again, we respectfully urge you to schedule hearings for Judge Conrad and Mr. Matthews, not only for the esteemed nominees themselves, but also for the citizens of the Fourth Circuit who are suffering from the lack of progress on the President's judicial nominees.

Please let us know how we can assist you in advancing these urgent nominations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



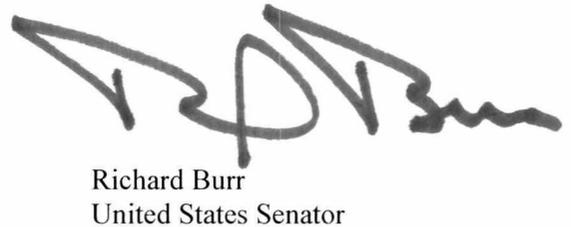
Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator



Jim DeMint
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator