

ALEXANDER W. JOEL

January 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Sharon Bradford Franklin, nominee for Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of Sharon Bradford Franklin, nominee for Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB).

Throughout my 14 years as the Civil Liberties Protection Officer for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, I did all within my power to support the PCLOB through its various iterations and across multiple administrations. The nation is stronger if the PCLOB is functioning as intended—as a thoughtful, careful, balanced, and objective institution that provides insightful advice and necessary oversight on the actions the government takes to protect the United States and its allies. I support Ms. Franklin's nomination because she has the expertise, experience, and commitment to lead the PCLOB so that it plays this vital role effectively, in a manner that earns public trust.

I started as Civil Liberties Protection Officer in 2006, and quickly realized the importance of engaging with civil society. Ms. Franklin was one of the first members of civil society that I contacted. At the time, she was Senior Counsel at the Constitution Project, and I was struck by the thoughtfulness and incisiveness of her work there. I came away from my meetings with her impressed with her insights, openness to diverging viewpoints, and balanced approach.

I later had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Franklin during an extraordinarily intense and momentous period of the Intelligence Community's recent history. Ms. Franklin served with distinction as Executive Director of the PCLOB from 2013—the year of the Snowden disclosures—through 2017. Through her thoughtful and measured leadership, she helped the PCLOB and by extension the IC navigate through the crisis of confidence that was triggered by those disclosures. I was especially impressed with the objective, careful and balanced way in which Ms. Franklin coordinated the process of resolving classification issues relating to the PCLOB's groundbreaking report on Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. That report is perhaps the single

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most important document on what is arguably the nation's single most important surveillance authority, and Ms. Franklin's leadership helped ensure it was available to the public in a manner that provided vital transparency while protecting intelligence sources and methods.

I know from my many professional interactions with Ms. Franklin that she is committed to ensuring that the PCLOB is a strong, vibrant, and effective institution. Her substantive expertise on the relevant issues, her direct and extensive experience with the PCLOB itself, her respect for the professionalism and integrity of intelligence professionals, and her dedication to the PCLOB's mission of responsible and effective oversight, make her ideally qualified to lead the PCLOB as it enters this new phase of its existence.

Sincerely,



Alex Joel

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