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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON
JEFFREY DAVID AUXIER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 7, 2022

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson's nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Oregon. As a career prosecutor who has worked with Justice Nelson for over a decade, mostly at the trial-court level, I am confident her legal acumen, sense of justice, and experience in the courtroom will benefit crime victims and increase public safety in my state.

As a state Supreme Court Justice for several years now, Justice Nelson's intellect is well-known throughout Oregon. However, Justice Nelson is also fondly remembered by prosecutors as an excellent circuit court judge. I have personally appeared in Justice Nelson's courtrooms more times than I can count, handling bench trials, jury trials, pleas, and settlement conferences before then-Judge Nelson. Her ability to maintain an efficient high-volume docket while also making sure parties from all backgrounds felt heard was extraordinary. As a Deputy District Attorney who handled a great deal of violent felonies, I often entered her courtroom with traumatized victims who were skeptical they would experience real justice. These victims always left Judge Nelson's courtroom feeling better than they did when they entered. Prosecutors appreciated that Judge Nelson was not afraid to deliver long prison sentences when appropriate, but her warm and attentive disposition towards crime victims was the primary reason my colleagues and I preferred her courtroom.

Since becoming District Attorney in Columbia County, a rural county in Northwest Oregon, I have continued my professional relationship with Justice Nelson working primarily on criminal justice policy focused on equity and accessibility issues for litigants. I remain impressed by her humility, willingness to listen to all sides, and respect for crime victims. I know she will be an excellent federal judge.

Sincerely,


Jeff Auxier
Columbia County District Attorney