

September 23, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I serve as the president and CEO of the Arizona Technology Council. As Arizona's premier networking and trade association for science and technology companies, the Council is the driving force behind making the Grand Canyon State the fastest-growing technology hub in the nation, connecting and empowering the state's community of innovation. More than 750 of Arizona's most cutting-edge technology companies are members of the Council, ranging in size from early-stage startups to larger corporations that are household names.

In connection with the Council's promotion of the technology industry in Arizona, we identify and support individuals who wish to serve the public and are familiar with issues regarding technology. I believe Sharad Desai is such an individual, and therefore support his nomination to serve as a district judge in Arizona.

As a lawyer at Honeywell — a significant aerospace and defense company and employer in Arizona — Mr. Desai has been focused on technology and innovation. While a litigation and general counsel for the company's Aerospace division, he managed technologically complex cases and contracts involving both the sale and procurement of technology. Furthermore, in his current role as vice president and general counsel for the Integrated Supply Chain, IT, Strategic & Digital Excellence, and Global Operations division, he is engaged in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and the associated risks, including intellectual property and data privacy concerns.

Because technology matters will increasingly be addressed by courts in the future, the Council believes we are well-served by judges familiar with and readily able to understand the related complex issues that come before them. For this reason, we endorse Mr. Desai's nomination.



Sincerely,

ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL & SCITECH INSTITUTE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven G. Zylstra", is written in a cursive style.

Steven G. Zylstra
President & CEO