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hearing record on
behalf of Sen. Rockefeller
in support of
David Hale

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
Statement before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
On the Nomination of David J. Hale
July 29, 2014

Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley, Senator Blumenthal, and all Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this very important hearing today to consider the nomination of an individual who I believe will be an outstanding addition to our Federal Judiciary – Mr. David J. Hale to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

As the Senior Senator from West Virginia, I should begin by explaining my interest in Mr. Hale's nomination to a Federal District Court in Kentucky. I have known Mr. Hale personally since my days as Governor of West Virginia, when his father, H. David Hale, served in my administration as the state's Banking Commissioner. Our families have remained close ever since, and I have continued to follow his son's career with interest and admiration.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to share with you my own knowledge of Mr. Hale's exemplary qualifications, while also recognizing that his untarnished credibility and unwavering commitment to justice are best exhibited by his lifelong record of personal and professional achievement.

First and foremost, David J. Hale is an extremely talented attorney who has proudly carried on his family's tradition of public service throughout his twenty-two-year legal career. In addition to a distinguished record as a litigator for thirteen years at two law firms in Kentucky, Mr. Hale has spent nearly ten years protecting his community from crime – first as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Kentucky and then as the Senate-confirmed U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky.

As the chief law enforcement officer in this District, Mr. Hale is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of all crimes in his District and representing the Federal government in a variety of civil matters. During his tenure, he has litigated or overseen the successful prosecution of a number of significant cases involving murder, armed robbery, arson, child abuse, and drug trafficking.

Importantly, in a District that includes Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, Mr. Hale also serves as Chair of a U.S. Attorney working group to support the rights of servicemembers and veterans. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, a program that helps eradicate drug trafficking and drug addiction in Kentucky, Tennessee, and my home state of West Virginia.

Despite the demanding nature of his legal practice, Mr. Hale has continued to devote a substantial amount of time in support of civic and charitable organizations in Kentucky: Kentucky YMCA Youth Association Board of Directors (1994-2006); Director of the Louisville MS Society (1993-1995); Louisville Urban League Board of Directors (2002-2009); Fern Creek Christian Church Board Member (1996-2010); Kentucky Educational Television Louisville Regional Advisory Committee (2003-2010); and many others. Having such a direct connection to the people of Kentucky will undoubtedly serve him well as a Federal Judge with jurisdiction over cases that arise in these same communities.

Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley, Senator Blumenthal, and Members of the Committee, I believe strongly in David J. Hale's ability to serve on our Federal bench. This Committee knows the importance of upholding the promise of justice and equality for all litigants in our court system. I am confident that today's hearing will reveal that Mr. Hale will live up to that promise and, if confirmed, will continue to serve our country with integrity, honesty, fairness, and justice.