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December 10, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee of the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee of the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: The Honorable Gretchen
Judicial Nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham

I write from the heart, with all the professional respect and admiration of a practicing attorney, and fellow administrator within the Elkhart County Judicial system, that I can muster in support of the nomination of Gretchen Lund to the United States District for the Northern District of Indiana. Judge Lund's legal knowledge and qualifications are exemplary. She is a motivated, accomplished, Judge and administrator in the Elkhart County Superior Court IV.

I have known Judge Lund in a professional capacity for over 20 years: First as the President of the Goshen City Bar, then Judge of Goshen City Court, and most recently as the Judge in Superior Court IV. As a Judge, I find Judge Lund to be brilliant, fair, and extremely thorough. When she was first elected to the County Court bench, I was skeptical as I had 9 previous years assigned to Superior IV, and I was concerned she would change everything about how we did business and how she would rule. She changed everything and more often ruled differently than I had been accustomed while working in that Court. I will admit, I found each of her changes and each of her rulings to be improvements over the status quo. Often after a zealous pleading for my Defendant for a certain treatment that I may have thought was in the best interest of my client, she would come up with a wholly different disposition than that which I had argued. I always found myself leaving the hearing admitting to myself that her resolution was a far superior result that may not have been as lenient, however, was truly in the best interest of both the State and my client. I have to be considered an elder to Judge Lund, however, she is wise beyond her years.

In my position as the Chief Public Defender of Elkhart County, it is my responsibility to appoint or hire an attorney to represent defendant/participants in the Elkhart County Problem Solving (Drug Court). A Court that has been created and designed for Elkhart County by Judge Lund. In September of 2022, I had to step in temporarily when a vacancy opened as I'd lost a defense attorney in Drug Court. I had quickly grown to appreciate what she had accomplished in Drug Court. What I thought would be a

few months until I found a replacement in that position, had turned into a shuffling of my weekly calendar. I'd made Judge Lund's Drug Court my home and my passion.

I have voted for Judge Lund, each time her name has appeared on a County-wide ballot. As I am a bluer than blue Democrat, that truly says more for Judge Lund than any platitude I could use to describe her

Judge Lund is a profoundly competent and an impartial jurist. From what I've seen she is empathetic and rules with reason. For what is law if not reason. From my experience and observation she is not afraid to reach out for advice and counsel. But, the decisions are her own I am confident Judge Lund would embody the balance of compassion, integrity, intelligence, and fidelity that I experienced in my appearances before both Judge Allen Sharp and Judge Robert L. Miller Jr. when both served as a United States District Court Judges for the Northern District of Indiana. She has displayed that potential in my opinion and has the mettle to make your esteemed Committee proud should she be approved as the next U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this resounding endorsement for this highly qualified candidate.

Respectfully,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Majerek
Jeffrey A. Majerek
Elkhart County
Chief Public Defender