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STANLEY L. FILDEW
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of John David Russell of Oklahoma
United States District Judge**

Dear Senator Durbin:

I am writing to strongly endorse the nomination of John Russell for the position of United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. I have known John for more than 30 years. We served together in the Tax Division of the Department of Justice. John and I were part of a group of younger attorneys who took great pride in our jobs. Our DOJ division was responsible for tax cases in the central United States, and we put in long hours traveling and litigating tax disputes. We were strong advocates for the interests of the government, but we also had the flexibility to compromise when the taxpayer's position had merit. These early years gave John a firm grounding in preparation, deliberation, and fairness to all, that he carries forward to this day.

John and I have remained friends for the decades after our DOJ service through telephone calls, emails, and Christmas greetings. We have discussed court decisions and the events of the day on many occasions. I have tried multiple cases in the federal courts. I have several friends (nominated by both parties) that are federal judges. My mother was a federal District Court Judge and federal Circuit Court Judge for more than 40 years (having been nominated by a Republican to the District Court and a Democrat to the Circuit Court). I think I have a good sense of the kind of person that would make a good federal judge. John is that kind of person. He is grounded in the Country's ideals and has the intellect, temperament, and sense of fairness to be an outstanding federal judge. I look forward to your favorable consideration of John's nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Kennedy III'.

Charles S. Kennedy III

cc: Sarah_seitz@lankford.senate.gov