



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

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June 14, 2024

BY EMAIL

Chairman Richard Joseph Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
c/o Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

Ranking Member Lindsey Graham
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
c/o Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Confirmation of Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of the nomination of the Honorable Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Before my election as Governor, I served four terms as Maine's Attorney General, as the elected District Attorney for three counties, and as a homicide prosecutor in the Maine Attorney General's Office. I also worked in private practice, including extensively as a criminal defense attorney, and am a former President of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. And I served as a member of the Maine House of Representatives, where I was assigned to the Judiciary Committee, overseeing judicial nominations.

I share that background to explain my particular interest in a strong Judiciary. As Maine's Governor, I have made a focused effort to identify the finest candidates for nomination to fill state court vacancies. My evaluation of applicants is scrupulously non-partisan, and concerned solely with those characteristics that make for an effective judge, including experience, intellectual capacity, personal integrity, work ethic, professional commitment, and discretion. By these measures, Justice Lipez is among the very best, and I was delighted to nominate her to the Maine Superior Court. Her nomination received unanimous support in both the Legislature's Judiciary Committee and in the Maine Senate.



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I am sure you are already familiar with her impressive academic and professional record, and I will not take time here to review that again. Suffice it to say that she has excelled at every turn – whether at Stanford Law School, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and most recently the Maine Superior Court. Since her appointment to the state court bench, we have received glowing accounts of her performance. Lawyers praise her demeanor and legal acumen. She has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues. Also – and importantly – she goes about her work with a genuine humility that is uncommon for someone so accomplished.

Her professional experience and personal qualities make her a superb choice for this nomination, and I am pleased to offer her my enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins (c/o Trent_Benishek@collins.senate.gov)
Senator Angus S. King, Jr. (c/o Sanjay_Kane@king.senate.gov)
Phillip A. Brest (Phillip.A.Brest@who.eop.gov)



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