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April 8, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senate  
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
United States Senate  
251 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Senators Blackburn and Hagerty:

Please accept this letter in support of U. S. Attorney Kevin Ritz of the Western District of Tennessee and his nomination as Judge for the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As is the case in most cities and municipalities, public safety has remained one of the primary concerns for the Greater Memphis Chamber and our diverse investors. This particular focus has been heightened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruptive effect it has had on our systems of commerce, government, and community.

In this historic moment for our region – as we fight for economic development opportunities at every turn – U. S. Attorney Ritz has been a trusted advocate and reliable voice who has ensured that the concerns of employers and employees around crime have been heard and advanced.

U. S. Attorney Ritz has provided tremendous assistance to the Greater Memphis Chamber's Public Safety Accountability Committee which was convened to apply pressure and support with regard to the operations and strategies being implemented by elected and appointed officials in the public safety space. In fact, his broad understanding of the existing challenges and difficult landscape helped to shape how we engaged with the officials we invited to present to this body.

More recently, U. S. Attorney Ritz played an invaluable role in a historic meeting we convened with our region's leading railroad partners to address the debilitating issue of cargo theft.

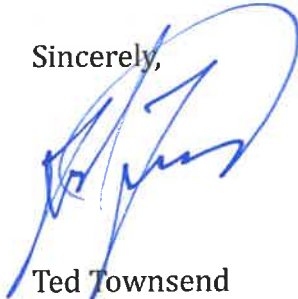
**Greater.**

*Letter to Senators Durbin, Graham, Blackburn and Hagerty*

On background, Memphis is one of only four American cities to be served by five Class I railroads. In March 2024, the Chamber was successful in convening a wide array of representatives from BNSF, CN, CSX, Norfolk Southern, and Union Pacific with government and law enforcement officials from the U. S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, Memphis Police, and the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. To his credit, there was a direct line between the overwhelming success of this meeting and the leadership of U. S. Attorney Ritz who helped to galvanize support for this session and our overall efforts.

West Tennessee has benefited greatly from the long and distinguished servant leadership of U. S. Attorney Kevin Ritz. Without reservation, the Greater Memphis Chamber is proud to share our support for U. S. Attorney Ritz knowing that he would bring the same intellect, understanding, integrity, and fairness to the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals he has demonstrated throughout his career.

Sincerely,



Ted Townsend  
President & CEO



Greg Duckett  
Chair, Board of Directors



Bill Dunavant  
Chair, Chairman's Circle