

November 10, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Gordon P. Gallagher, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

President Biden has nominated U.S. Magistrate Judge Gordon Gallagher to serve as an Article III judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. As members of the legal community in Western Colorado, we write to recognize Judge Gallagher as an outstanding candidate for this vacancy and respectfully request the Senate Judiciary's support for this nomination. As a public servant Judge Gallagher brings judicial independence, a meaningful criminal law background, and a career focused on serving under-served individuals. If confirmed to the court, Judge Gallagher would be the only district court judge from Western Colorado and one of very few to have ever served from this part of the state.

In their October 2021 recommendation letter to President Biden, Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper observed that Judge Gallagher possesses the "compassion, intellect, and temperament" that would make him an excellent jurist to serve the citizens of Colorado with integrity. We endorse the view of your Senate colleagues wholeheartedly.

We also have a perspective on Judge Gallagher as a fellow Western Coloradan and dedicated public servant whom we have known for decades. Judge Gallagher is widely respected across Colorado. But we know him particularly well given his longstanding service to the rural western part of the state. This includes public service from 1997 to 2000 as a Deputy District Attorney for the 21st Judicial District in Mesa County, and a decades-long state court criminal defense practice. Since 2012, Judge Gallagher has capably served as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. He was unanimously re-appointed to the position in 2016 and 2020.

Judge Gallagher has a well-earned reputation as an excellent jurist. He is hard-working, thoughtful, and exceptionally well qualified to serve as a federal district court judge for the District Court of Colorado. Having a federal district court judge in Western Colorado enhances the ability of Western Slope practitioners to take federal civil cases.

We hold a diverse set of political views as Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, and respect Judge Gallagher's strong support for the independence of the judiciary. We also sincerely appreciate Judge Gallagher's concern for addressing systemic issues in our judicial system. This includes his service as a member of the Grand Valley Task Force's criminal justice working group to address systemic bias in the community, and Judge Gallagher's providing rehabilitative resources for the Southern Ute and Ute

Mountain Ute Tribes. We also support his work over the past decade to facilitate legal representation to indigent defendants as part of the Alternate Defense Counsel and through service as Chair of the Pro Se Working Group.

Judge Gallagher would be a tremendous asset to the U.S. District Court of Colorado and to the citizens across the state. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this highly qualified candidate.

Respectfully,

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cc: Senator Michael F. Bennet
Senator John W. Hickenlooper