



**Judge Louis J. Freeh, Former Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

February 19, 2021

Re: Nomination of Judge Merrick Garland for United States Attorney General

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Grassley:

I am very pleased to support the nomination of my friend and former United States Department of Justice (DOJ) colleague, Judge Merrick Garland, for the position of United States Attorney General. Based on my personal and professional relationship and knowledge of Judge Garland for over twenty-eight years, I can attest to his outstanding legal skills, superb law enforcement leadership qualities, and personal character for integrity, fairness, bipartisanship, and total political independence. I know that Judge Garland will be an Attorney General of exceptional quality and vision, who will guide and lead the DOJ according to its highest traditions.

I first met Judge Garland as FBI director in 1993 when he was serving as the Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General. In that senior role, I had occasion to interact with Judge Garland on a weekly basis on almost every major FBI and DOJ issue. Both myself and senior FBI officials always found Judge Garland to be completely briefed and prepared to act on the most complex criminal justice matters, and consistently demonstrated a keen awareness and support for our 'line FBI Agents' and all the challenges and dangers of their critical work. Judge Garland has the rare ability to apply his brilliant legal knowledge, prosecutorial experience, private law practice experience and now judicial talents to solve real, complex problems which the FBI and DOJ must address. In every interaction, we found Judge Garland to be fair-minded, highly competent, professional, humble and yet assertive when needed. Most importantly, Judge Garland always demonstrated the highest ethical principles in all his conversations and actions, and made decisions in a completely non-political manner.

After the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was devastated by a terrorist bombing in April 1995, then Attorney General Janet Reno and I sent Judge Garland to take over the early prosecutorial phase of this attack, then the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in US history. We



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could not have had more confidence in Judge Garland and his meritorious service there exceeded our expectations. I know he will do the same as our next Attorney General.

In twenty-six years of federal service, I have been appointed by both Democrat and Republican presidents to serve our great Nation. I know that if confirmed by your Committee, Judge Garland will continue to render extraordinary and apolitical service to the DOJ, for which we will all be immensely proud.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louie Freeh".

Louie Freeh  
(302) 824-7139

Cc: Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Honorable Lindsey Graham  
All Judiciary Committee Members