

February 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of the Honorable Merrick B. Garland, nominee to become the United States Attorney General

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is my privilege to write in support of the Honorable Merrick B. Garland's nomination to become Attorney General of the United States.

I first heard of Judge Garland in the early 1990s because he served in the U.S. Department of Justice in several senior roles, while I was serving as the United States Associate Attorney General (appointed by President Reagan in 1988; and prior to that I served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma between 1981 and 1983). Even then, before Judge Garland went on to accomplish many things, he was a heavyweight within the Department, someone who was well-respected for his legal ability and leadership.

I came to know Judge Garland more personally shortly after I became the 25th Governor of Oklahoma in 1995, when one of the worst crimes was ever committed on American soil at the Alfred J. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The devastation was profound from that attack, and the entire State of Oklahoma, together with the federal government and other local governments, marshaled together every resource imaginable to mobilize relief and rescue teams to handle the crisis. While rescue efforts were underway, on the law enforcement side, Judge Garland departed Justice Department headquarters in Washington D.C. and arrived in Oklahoma City to oversee one of the largest and most complicated crime scenes

ever encountered. He quickly and expertly put a team together out of many different local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

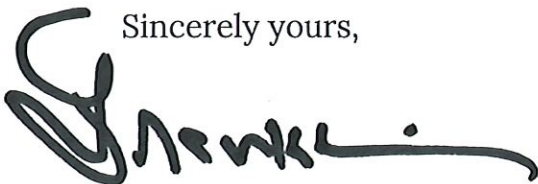
His team worked swiftly, expertly, and judiciously, identifying and arresting the two men responsible, and Judge Garland meticulously oversaw every step of the initial proceeding to build an overwhelming case to ensure justice and accountability for the heinous attack. When I observed Judge Garland firsthand during that time, he displayed wisdom and humility, not seeking the spotlight for himself, but truly seeking to serve the United States in a manner that transcended partisanship and personal interest. His tireless service is something I will always remember.

I believe that Judge Garland will bring this same character and approach to his service as the Attorney General. He will act with the utmost integrity and independence, and will ensure principled leadership at the Department. As someone who has served as a lifelong Republican (including as a former Chairman of the Republican Governors Association), I can think of no better leader than Judge Garland for the Justice Department at this time.

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to expeditiously process Judge Garland's nomination, and I urge the Senate to unanimously confirm him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Keating". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Frank Keating  
Oklahoma Governor, 1995-2003